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1 Image Memory Apparatus

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to an image memory apparatus for storing input image information.

Related Background Art

 In recent years, a digital image copying machine for digitally color-separating a color image to read
10 the color image, performing desired processing of the read digital image, and performing color recording on the basis of the edited digital color image signal has been very popular. In addition, a system obtained by connecting a color image memory apparatus and a monitor
15 display is proposed by the present applicant.

 In such a system, data stored in the color image memory apparatus is repeatedly sent to the digital color copying machine to obtain a plurality of color images. In addition, when the monitor display is
20 connected to the digital color copying machine, the stored images can be checked.

 In the conventional technique, a capacity of a memory for storing image information is predetermined. For example, when a large or small image is to be
25 stored, an image storing area is fixed. When a large image exceeding the storing area is to be stored, it

1 must be reduced. When the reduced image is to be read
out, it must be enlarged. It is therefore impossible
to reproduce a high-quality image.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

5 It is an object of the present invention to
provide an image memory apparatus capable of
reproducing a high-quality image as needed in
consideration of the above situation.

It is another object of the present invention to
10 provide an image memory apparatus capable of
effectively using an image storing capacity in
correspondence with an input image.

In order to achieve the above objects according to
an aspect of the present invention, there is provided
15 an image memory apparatus comprising a memory means for
storing input image information, a means for
designating a storing capacity of the memory means for
the input image information, and storing control means
for performing storing control of the input image
20 information in the memory means on the basis of a
storing capacity instruction from the designating
means.

It is still another object of the present
invention to provide an image processing apparatus
25 capable of storing a color image signal with high
quality.

It is still another object of the present

1 invention to provide an image memory apparatus capable
of storing each image information upon storage of a
plurality of pieces of image information at a desired
resolution.

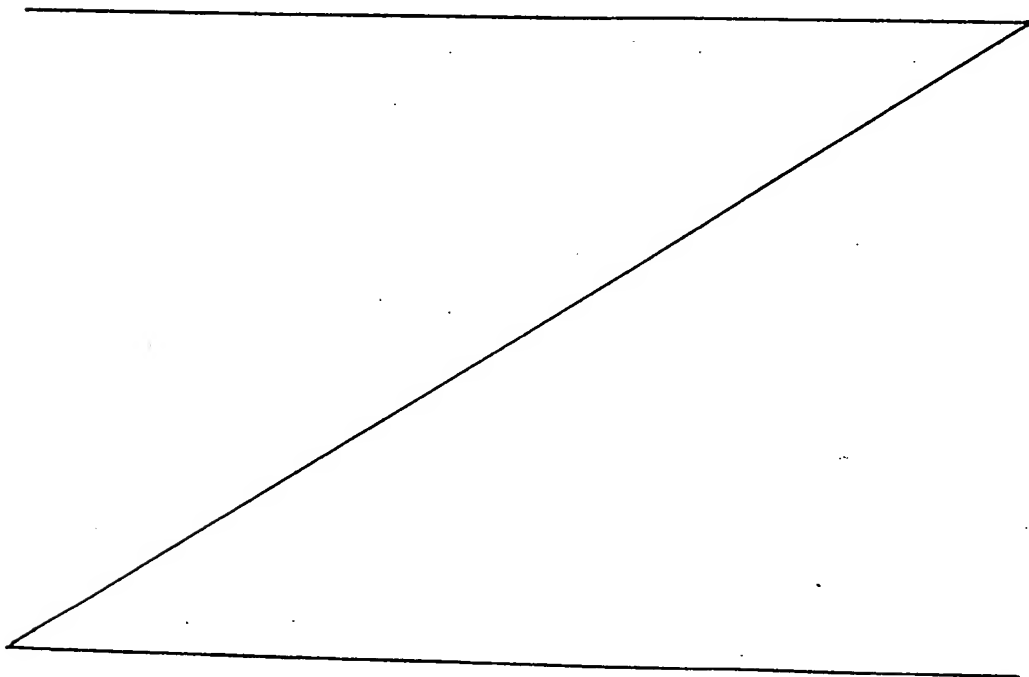
5 It is still another object of the present
invention to provide an image memory apparatus having a
new function.

It is still another object of the present
invention to provide an image memory apparatus whose
10 operability can be improved.

The above and other objects, features, and
advantages of the present invention will be apparent
from the detailed description of the preferred
embodiments in conjunction with the accompanying
15 drawings.

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1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing an arrangement of a system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing an original scanning unit 11, a video processing unit 12, and a control unit 13 shown in Fig. 1;

Figs. 3 to 6 are block diagrams for explaining functions of a video interface 201 shown in Fig. 2;

10 Figs. 7A and 7B are views for explaining an arrangement of a LOG conversion circuit 48 shown in Fig. 2 and its characteristics;

Fig. 8 is a graph showing spectral characteristics of color separation filters;

15 Fig. 9 is a graph showing absorption wavelength characteristics of color toners;

Fig. 10A is a block diagram showing an arrangement of a color correction circuit 49 shown in Fig. 2;

20 Fig. 10B is a table for explaining an operation of the color correction circuit 49 shown in Fig. 10A;

Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing an arrangement of a black character processing circuit 69 shown in Fig. 2;

25 Figs. 12A, 12B, 12C, and 12D are views for explaining an operation of the circuit shown in Fig. 11;

Figs. 13A, 13B, 13C, 13E, and 13F are views for

1 explaining area signals generated by an area generator
69;

Fig. 13D is a block diagram of the area generator
69;

5 Fig. 14A is a block diagram showing an arrangement
of an area limiting mask bit map memory 91;

Figs. 14B to 14D are views for explaining control
timings of the mask bit map memory 91;

Fig. 15 is a view for explaining a relationship
10 between the mask bit map memory 91 and original image
pixels;

Fig. 16 is a view showing an internal structure of
a mask memory formed in the mask bit map memory 91;

Fig. 17A is a block diagram showing an arrangement
15 of an interpolation circuit 109 shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 17B is a view for explaining an operation of
the interpolation circuit shown in Fig. 17A;

Figs. 18A and 18B are views showing cutting out
and synthesis on the basis of outputs from the mask
20 memory 91, respectively;

Fig. 19 is a graph showing characteristics of a
density conversion circuit 116;

Fig. 20A is a block diagram showing an arrangement
of a repeat circuit 118;

25 Fig. 20B is a timing chart for explaining an
operation of the repeat circuit 118;

Fig. 20C is a view showing an output result of the

1 repeat circuit 118;

Figs. 21A, 21B, and 21C are views showing another output example of the repeat circuit 118;

5 Fig. 22 is a timing chart showing a print sequence of a printer 2;

Fig. 23 is a plan view of a digitizer 16;

Fig. 24 is a view showing addresses of information in an area designated by a point pen in the digitizer 16;

10 Fig. 25A is a block diagram showing an arrangement of a synthesization or synthesis circuit 115;

Fig. 25B is a view showing a relationship between an area code and an area on an original;

15 Fig. 25C is a view showing an arrangement of an area code generating circuit 130;

Fig. 25D is a view showing a data format of a RAM 153 or 154 shown in Fig. 25C;

Fig. 25E is a view showing an area corresponding to the data shown in Fig. 25D;

20 Fig. 25F is a view showing a data structure of a RAM 135 or 136 shown in Fig. 25A;

Fig. 25G is a view showing a state of synthesis shown in Fig. 25A;

25 Fig. 25H is a view showing a state wherein masking is performed with a designated color within a designated area, and a character read out from the bit map memory is synthesized in the designated area;

1 Fig. 25I is a view for explaining an operation of
a decoder 146 shown in Fig. 25A;

 Fig. 26 is a timing chart showing a signal 207
output from a color reader 1 and an image signal 205;

5 Figs. 27A and 27B are block diagrams showing an
arrangement of an image memory apparatus 3;

 Fig. 27C is a block diagram showing an arrangement
of memories A to D shown in Fig. 27A;

 Fig. 27D-1 is a block diagram showing an
10 arrangement of a bit map memory E;

 Fig. 27D-2 is a view showing a relationship
between an original and data to be written in the bit
map memory E;

 Fig. 27E is a view showing a monitor memory M
15 shown in Fig. 27A;

 Fig. 27F is a view showing part of an internal
structure of a system controller shown in Figs. 27A and
27B;

 Fig. 28A is a block diagram showing an internal
20 structure of a filter 9500 shown in Fig. 27A;

 Figs. 28B and 28C are block diagrams showing an
internal structure of a selector 4250 shown in
Fig. 27A;

 Fig. 29 is a view showing an arrangement of a
25 system controller 4210 shown in Fig. 27A and a
relationship between the system controller 4210 and
FIFO memories in memories A to M;

1 Fig. 30 is a timing chart obtained when trimming
processing is performed;

 Fig. 31 is a timing chart obtained when trimming
processing and variable magnification processing are
5 performed;

 Fig. 32 is a block diagram showing a relationship
between memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B, a
counter controller, and a counter;

 Fig. 33 is a view showing capacities of the
10 memories 4060R, 4060G, and 4060B when the memories A,
B, C, and D are connected;

 Fig. 34 is a view showing a state wherein an image
stored in the image memory apparatus 3 is printed out
at the color printer 2;

15 Fig. 35 is a timing chart for explaining an
operation of the circuit shown in Figs. 27A and 27B;

 Fig. 36 is a view showing capacities of the
memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B;

 Figs. 37A and 37B are views showing an image
20 synthesis result;

 Fig. 37C is a timing chart showing timings in an
image synthesization mode;

 Figs. 37D and 37E are views showing another image
synthesization result;

25 Figs. 37F and 37G are views for explaining
enlargement continuous copying;

 Fig. 38 is a timing chart for explaining

1 operations of the respective parts in Figs. 27A and 27B
on the 11 line in Fig. 37A;

Fig. 39 is a timing chart for explaining
operations of the respective parts in Figs. 27A and 27B
5 on the 12 line;

Fig. 40 is a timing chart showing a sequence of
surface sequential color image formation at the color
printer 2;

Fig. 41 is a view showing an internal structure of
10 a selector 4230 shown in Fig. 27B;

Fig. 42 is a view showing a relationship between
the memory M (corresponding to 2407) and the image
memories A, B, C, and D (corresponding to 2406), both
of which are shown in Figs. 27A and 27B;

15 Fig. 43 is a view for explaining an operation of
the circuit shown in Fig. 42;

Fig. 44 is a flow chart for explaining an
operation of the circuit shown in Fig. 42;

Fig. 45 is a block diagram showing an arrangement
20 of a film scanner 34 shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 46 is a perspective view showing an
arrangement of a film carrier shown in Fig. 45;

Figs. 47 to 50 are views showing display states of
an operation unit 20 shown in Fig. 1;

25 Fig. 51 is a block diagram showing an arrangement
of the image memory apparatus 3 when viewed from a host
computer 33 shown in Fig. 1;

1 Figs. 52 to 55 are views showing coordinate
systems for the respective apparatuses;

 Fig. 56 is a view showing a format of image file
names;

5 Fig. 57 is a view showing classification of data
transferred between the host computer 33 and the image
memory apparatus 3;

 Fig. 58 is a view showing a format of a command;

 Fig. 59 is a view showing a flow of image data
10 instructed by each command;

 Fig. 60 is a view showing a state of storage of R,
G, and B image inputs in memories;

 Fig. 61 is a view showing a data transfer format;

 Fig. 62 is a view showing a state of storage of Y,
15 M, C, and K image inputs in memories;

 Fig. 63 is a view showing a data transfer format;

 Fig. 64 is a view showing a state of storage of
palette image data in a memory;

 Fig. 65 is a view showing a data transfer format;

20 Fig. 66 is a view showing a correspondence between
the palette image data and data representing the R, G,
and B components of each palette;

 Fig. 67 is a view showing a state of storage of
binary inputs in a memory;

25 Fig. 68 is a view showing a data transfer format;

 Fig. 69 is a view showing a response data format;

 Fig. 70 is a view showing classification of

1 commands;

Figs. 71 to 80 are views for explaining the
respective commands;

5 Figs. 81 to 87 are views showing execution
sequences of the respective commands;

Figs. 88, 89, and 90 are views showing image
synthesization results in the system of this
embodiment;

10 Fig. 91 is a view showing a structure of a color
palette;

Fig. 92 is a view showing a relationship between a
color reader 1, the image memory apparatus 3, and the
host computer 33; and

15 Figs. 93 to 98 are views showing command transfer
exchange between the host computer 33 and the image
memory apparatus 3.

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1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings hereinafter.

5 <System Configuration>

Fig. 1 is a view showing a system configuration as a schematic internal structure of a color image processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. The system of this embodiment
10 comprises a digital color image reading apparatus (to be referred to as a color reader hereinafter) 1 for reading a digital color image, as shown in the upper portion of Fig. 1, a digital color image printing apparatus (to be referred to as a color printer
15 hereinafter) 2 for printing and outputting a digital color image, as indicated in the lower portion of Fig. 1, an image memory apparatus 3, an SV recording reproducing unit 31, a monitor TV 32, a host computer 33, and a film scanner 34.

20 The color reader 1 of this embodiment is an apparatus for causing a color separating means (to be described later) and a photoelectric transducer element constituted by a CCD or the like to read color image information of an original in units of color components
25 and for converting the read color image information into electrical digital image signals.

The color printer 2 is an electrophotographic

1 laser beam color printer for limiting a color image in
units of colors in response to digital image signals to
be output, and recording a color image on a recording
sheet in the form of dots upon rotation of a
5 photosensitive body a plurality of times.

The image memory apparatus 3 is an apparatus for
quantizing a digital image read by the color reader 1
or the film scanner 34 and an analog video signal from
the SV recording reproducing unit 31, converting the
10 input data into a digital image, and storing the
digital image.

The SV recording reproducing unit 31 is an
apparatus for imaging an image with an SV camera,
reproducing image information recorded in an SV floppy
15 disk, and outputting the reproduced image as an analog
video signal. The SV recording reproducing unit 31 can
also receive an analog video signal and can record it
in the SV floppy disk.

The monitor TV 32 is an apparatus for displaying
20 an image stored in the image memory apparatus 3 and
contents of analog video signals output from the SV
recording reproducing unit 31.

The host computer 33 has a function of
transmitting image information to the image memory
25 apparatus 3 and a function of receiving image
information output from the color reader 1, the SV
recording reproducing unit, and the film scanner 34 and

1 stored in the image memory apparatus 3. The host
computer 33 also controls the color reader 1 and the
color printer 2.

The film scanner 34 is an apparatus for converting
5 an image of a 35-mm film (positive/negative) into
electrical color image information by a photoelectric
transducer such as a CCD.

The details of the respective components described
above will be described in detail below.

10 <Description of Color Reader 1>

An arrangement of the color reader 1 will be
described below.

The color reader 1 shown in Fig. 1 includes a
platen glass 4 on which an original 999 is placed, and
15 a rod array lens 5. The rod array lens 5 focuses an
image of light reflected by the original 999 exposed
and scanned by a halogen exposure lamp 10 and supplies
an image input to equi-magnification full-color color
sensors 6. The rod array lens 5, the
20 equi-magnification full-color sensors 6, a sensor
output signal amplifier 7, and the halogen exposure
lamp 10 constitute an original scanning unit 11. The
original scanning unit 11 scans the original 999 in a
direction of an arrow A1. Image information to be read
25 from the original 999 is sequentially read every line
upon exposure and scanning of the original scanning
unit 11. The read color-separated image signals are

1 amplified by the sensor output signal amplifier 7 into
predetermined voltages. These voltages are input to a
video processing unit through a signal line 501 and are
processed by this unit. The signal line 501 comprises
5 a coaxial cable to assure accurate signal transmission.
A signal line 502 supplies drive pulses to the
equi-magnification full-color sensors 6. All necessary
drive pulses are generated by a video processing unit
12. The image reader 1 also includes white and black
10 boards 8 and 9 for adjusting white and black levels of
image signals, respectively. When the white and black
boards 8 and 9 are irradiated with light from the
halogen exposure lamp 10, predetermined density signal
levels can be obtained and can be used to correct the
15 black and white levels.

A control unit 13 comprises a microcomputer and
controls the overall operation of the color reader 1.
The control unit 13 performs display and key input
operations on an operation panel or unit 20 and
20 controls the video processing unit 12 through a bus
508. The control unit 13 detects a position of the
original scanning unit 11 by position sensors S1 and S2
through signal lines 509 and 510.

The control unit 13 performs the entire control of
25 the color reader 1, i.e., performs control of a
stepping motor driving circuit 15 for pulse-driving a
stepping motor 14 for moving the scanning unit 11

1 through a signal line 503, performs ON/OFF control and
light amount control of the halogen exposure lamp 10 by
an exposure lamp driver 21 through a signal line 504,
and performs control of a digitizer 16 or a display
5 unit through a signal line 505.

The operation unit 20 is included in the color
reader 1 and includes a liquid crystal display panel
also serving as a touch panel and keys for instructing
various inputs. Display results of the display panel
10 are shown from Fig. 47.

A color image signal read by the original scanning
unit 11 during exposure and scanning of the original is
input to the video processing unit 12 through the
sensor output signal amplifier 7 and the signal line
15 501.

The original scanning unit 11 and the video
processing unit 12 will be described in detail with
reference to Fig. 2.

A color image signal input to the video processing
20 unit 12 is separated into G (green), B (blue), and R
(red) color signals by a sample/hold (S/H) circuit 43.
The color-separated signals are converted into digital
signals by an A/D converter 44, thereby obtaining
digital color image signals.

25 In this embodiment, the color sensors 6 in the
original scanning unit 11 comprise five staggered image
sensors, as shown in Fig. 2. The read position errors

1 between the preceding second and fourth channels and
 the remaining first, third, and fifth channels are
 corrected by the color sensors 6 and a shift correction
 circuit 45. Shift-corrected signals from the shift
 5 correction circuit 45 are input to a black
 correction/white correction circuit 46, and dark
 current errors of the color sensors 6, the light amount
 errors of the halogen exposure lamp 10, and sensitivity
 variations of the sensors are corrected in accordance
 10 with signals corresponding to light reflected by the
 white and black boards 8 and 9.

Color image data proportional to an amount of
 input light from the color sensors 6 is input to a
 video interface 201 and is connected to the image
 15 memory apparatus 3.

The video interface 201 has functions shown in
 Figs. 3 to 6. That is, the video interface 201 has:

(1) a function of outputting a signal 559 from
 the black correction/white correction circuit 46 to the
 20 image memory apparatus 3 (Fig. 3);

(2) a function of inputting image information 563
 from the image memory apparatus 3 to a selector 119
 (Fig. 4);

(3) a function of outputting image information
 25 562 from a synthesization circuit 115 to the image
 memory apparatus 3 (Fig. 5);

(4) a function of inputting binary information

1 206 from the image memory apparatus 3 to the
synthesization circuit 115 (Fig. 6); and

(5) a function of connecting a control line 207
(lines of HSYNC, VSYNC, and image enable EN signals)
5 between the image memory apparatus 3 and the color
reader 1 and a communication line 561 between the image
memory apparatus 3 and the CPU. In particular, the CPU
communication line is connected to a communication
controller 162 in the control unit 13 to perform.
10 exchange various commands and various types of area
information.

These five functions are switched by the CPU
control bus 508, as shown in Figs. 3 to 6.

As described above, the video interface 201 has
15 the five functions so that a signal line 205 and the
signal lines 206 and 207 can perform bidirectional
transmission.

Bidirectional transmission can be performed with
the above arrangement, the number of signal lines can
20 be reduced, thin cables can be used, and an inexpensive
system can be provided.

The signal lines of the interface connector (4550
in Fig. 27A) of the image memory apparatus 3 connected
to the color reader 1 can also perform bidirectional
25 transmission.

The number of connecting lines between the
respective apparatuses constituting the system can be

1 reduced, and most advanced communications can be performed.

The image information 559 from the black correction/white correction circuit 46 is input to a
5 logarithm (LOG) conversion circuit 48 (Fig. 2) to perform processing for matching an output image with human spectral luminous efficiency.

The black correction/white correction circuit 46 performs conversion of white = 00H and black = FFH. In
10 addition, characteristics of image sources input to the image read sensors are different. For examples, a normal reflecting original and a transmitting original used in a film projector or the like have different characteristics. In addition, characteristics of
15 positive and negative films belonging to the transmitting originals are different from each other. Furthermore, sensitivities of the films and gamma characteristics of the images input in exposure states vary. As shown in Figs. 7A and 7B, a plurality of
20 logarithmic conversion LUTs (look-up tables) are prepared and selectively used. This switching is performed through signal lines lg0, lg1, and lg2 by instruction inputs from an operation unit to I/O ports of a CPU 22. Data output in response to the B, R, G
25 inputs correspond to density values of the output image. Since signals of B (blue), G (green), and R (red) correspond to toner amounts of yellow, magenta,

1 and cyan, respectively, the color image data are caused to correspond to Y, M, and C.

A color conversion circuit 47 is a circuit for detecting a specific color from the input color image data R, B, and G and replaces it with another color. For example, this circuit has a function of converting a red portion in an original into a portion of blue or any other color.

The respective color component image data, i.e., yellow, magenta, and cyan components, derived from the original image from the logarithm conversion circuit 48 are color-corrected by a color correction circuit 49. The spectral characteristics of color separation filters arranged in units of pixels in the color sensors have unnecessary transmission regions indicated by hatched portions in Fig. 8. Color toners (Y, M, and C) to be transferred to a transfer sheet are also known to have unnecessary absorption components, as shown in Fig. 9. Figs. 8 and 9 show the characteristics of the components R and G and the components Y and M, respectively.

Masking correction for the color component image data Y_i , M_i , and C_i upon color correction by linear equations as follows is well-known:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_o \\ M_o \\ C_o \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} aY1 & -bM1 & -cC1 \\ -aY2 & bM2 & -cC2 \\ -aY3 & -bM3 & cC3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_i \\ M_i \\ C_i \end{bmatrix}$$

1 A minimum value $\text{Min}(Y_i, M_i, C_i)$ (i.e., a minimum
value of Y_i , M_i , and C_i) is calculated from the color
components Y_i , M_i , and C_i , and the calculated value is
defined as inking (black). Thereafter, an addition of
5 a black toner (inking), and reduction of the respective
color components in accordance with an amount of black
component added, i.e., undercolor removal (UCR), are
often performed. A circuit arrangement of the color
correction circuit 49 for performing masking, inking,
10 and UCR is shown in Fig. 10A. The characteristic
features of this circuit are as follows:

(1) Two masking matrices are used and can be
switched at high speed by a "1/0" state of one signal
line.

15 (2) The presence/absence of UCR can be switched
at high speed by a "1/0" state of one signal line.

(3) Two systems for determining an amount of
black toner are switched at high speed by a "1/0"
state.

20 Prior to image reading, a desired first matrix
coefficient M_1 and a desired second matrix coefficient
 M_2 are set through a bus connected to the CPU 22. In
this embodiment, the coefficients are given as follows:

$$25 \quad M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} aY_1 & -bM_1 & -cC_1 \\ -aY_2 & bM_2 & -cC_2 \\ -aY_3 & -bM_3 & cC_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M2 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha Y1 & -\beta M1 & -\gamma C1 \\ -\alpha Y2 & \beta M2 & -\gamma C2 \\ -\alpha Y3 & -\beta M3 & \gamma C3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The coefficient M1 is set in registers 50 to 52,
and the coefficient M2 is set in registers 53 to 55.

Each of selectors 56 to 62 selects A when S terminal = "1" and B when S terminal = "0". In order to select the matrix M1, a switching signal MAREA 566 = "1" is set. The switching signal 566 is set to "0" for the matrix M2.

A selector 63 selects one of outputs a, b, and c on the basis of a truth table in Fig. 10B in response to select signals C0 and C1 (567 and 568). The select signals C0 and C1 and a select signal C2 correspond to color signals to be output. These signals (C2,C1,C0) are output as (0,0,0), (0,0,1), (0,1,0), and (1,0,0) in an order of, e.g., Y, M, C, and Bk. These signals are also output as (0,1,1) serving as a monochromatic signal, thereby obtaining color signals corrected to desired colors. The select signals C0, C1, and C2 are output by the CPU 22 in accordance with an image forming sequence of the color printer 2. If (C0,C1,C2) = (0,0,0) and MAREA 566 = "1", then the contents of registers 50a, 50b, and 50c, i.e., (aY1,-bM1,-cC1) appear at the output (a,b,c) of the selector 63. On the other hand, a black component signal 570 calculated as $\text{Min}(Y_i, M_i, C_i) = k$ in accordance with the input

1 signals Y_i , M_i , and C_i is subjected to primary
 conversion as $Y = ax - b$ (where a and b are constants)
 by a subtracter 64. The converted signal is input to
 the B inputs of subtracters 65a, 65b, and 65c through
 5 the selector 60. The subtracters 65a, 65b, and 65c
 calculate $Y = Y_i - (ak - b)$, $M = M_i - (ak - b)$, and $c =$
 $C_i - (ak - b)$ as undercolor removal signals. These
 signals are input to multipliers 66a, 66b, and 66c for
 masking through signal lines 571a, 571b, and 571c,
 10 respectively. The selector 60 is controlled by a
 signal UAREA 572. The signal 572 can switch the
 presence/absence of UCR (undercolor removal) at high
 speed in accordance with its logical state of "1/0".

The A inputs of the multipliers 66a, 66b, and 66c
 15 receive the signals (aY_1 , $-bM_1$, and $-cC_1$), and the B
 inputs receive signals [$Y_i - (ak - b)$, $M_i - (ak - b)$,
 and $C_i - (ak - b)$] = [Y_i , M_i , and C_i]. As is apparent
 from Fig. 10A, $Y_{out} = Y_i \times (aY_1) + M_i \times (-bM_1) + C_i \times$
 $(-cC_1)$ is obtained at an output Dout under the
 20 condition $C_2 = 0$ (selection of Y, M, or C). Therefore,
 masking color correction and UCR processing are
 performed, and the resultant yellow image data can be
 obtained. Similarly, the following outputs appear at
 the Dout:

$$25 \quad M_{out} = Y_i \times (-aY_2) + M_i \times (bM_2) + C_i \times (-cC_2)$$

$$C_{out} = Y_i \times (-aY_3) + M_i \times (-bM_3) + C_i \times (cC_3)$$

Color selection is controlled by the CPU 22 by the

1 table shown in Fig. 10B in an order of outputs to the
 color printer. Registers 67a, 67b, and 67c, and
 registers 68a, 68b, and 68c are monochromatic image
 forming registers output $MONO = k_1Y_i + l_1M_i + m_1C_i$ upon
 5 weighting and additions as in the principle of masking
 color correction.

A switching signal MAREA 566, the switching signal
 UAREA 572, and a switching signal KAREA 573 have the
 following functions. The signal MAREA 566 is used to
 10 switch between the masking color correction coefficient
 matrices M1 and M2 at high speed. The signal UAREA 572
 switches the UCR presence/absence at high speed. The
 signal KAREA 573 switches primary conversion of the
 black component signal (i.e., Dout through a signal
 15 line 574 and the selector 61), i.e., switches $Y = ck -$
 d or $Y = ek - f$ (\underline{c} , \underline{e} , and \underline{f} are constant parameters)
 in response to the $K = \text{Min}(Y_i, M_i, C_i)$ at high speed.
 For example, the masking coefficient, a UCR amount, or
 an inking amount is changed in units of areas in one
 20 copy image. The system of this embodiment is suitable
 when images obtained from image input sources having
 different color separation characteristics or a
 plurality of images having different black tones are
 synthesized. The area signals MAREA, UAREA, and KAREA
 25 (566, 572, and 573) are generated by an area generator
 (a black character processing circuit 69 in Fig. 2).

The back character processing circuit 69 for

1 improving black reproduction of a black character or a
black thin line in an original and blurring at an edge
portion of a black thin line will be described with
reference to Figs. 11 to 12D.

5 Color signals 559R, 559G, and 559B of R, G, and B
(red, green, and blue) black- and white-corrected by
the black correction/white correction circuit 46 shown
in Fig. 2 are subjected to masking and UCR processing
by the color correction circuit 49, and color signals
10 to be output to the printer are selected and output to
a signal line 565. At the same time, in order to
detect an achromatic edge portion (a portion of a black
character or a black thin line) of an original from the
signals R, G, and B, a luminance signal Y and color
15 difference signals I and Q are calculated by a Y,I,Q
calculation circuit 70 (Fig. 11).

A luminance signal Y575 is input to a 5-line line
buffer circuit 71 to perform a 5 x 5 matrix calculation
by a digital quadratic differential circuit 72
20 well-known to extract an edge signal. As described
above, a Laplacian operation is performed by an
operation circuit 72. That is, when the input
luminance signal Y is a stepwise input (e.g., a
character portion) in (i) of Fig. 12D, an output 576
25 upon Laplacian conversion is given as (ii) in Fig. 12D
(to be called as an edge signal hereinafter). Look-up
tables LUTA 73a and LUTB 73b are look-up tables to

1 determine a printing amount (e.g., a toner amount) at
an edge portion of a black character (or a black thin
line) and comprise look-up tables having
characteristics shown in Figs. 12A and 12B,
5 respectively. When the LUTA is operated in response to
the edge signal 576, an amplitude is increased as shown
in (iii) in Fig. 12D, and an amount of black toner at a
back edge portion (to be described later) is
determined. When the LUTB is operated in response to
10 the edge signal 576, an absolute value is negative, and
amounts of toners of Y, M, and C (yellow, magenta, and
cyan) of the black edge portion are determined. This
is a signal such as (iv) of Fig. 12D, and is
transmitted through a smoothing (averaging) circuit 74
15 to obtain a signal shown in (v) in Fig. 12D.

An achromatic color detection circuit 75 outputs a
signal according to characteristics shown in, e.g.,
Figs. 12A to 12D so that "output" = 1 for a perfectly
achromatic color and "output" = 0 for a chromatic
20 color. This signal is selected by a selector 76 in
response to a signal serving as a signal 577 of "1" in
a black toner printing mode. The selected signal is
gated with a signal 578 and is multiplied with a signal
579 ((iii) in Fig. 12D) by a multiplier 77 to determine
25 an amount of black toner. A product signal is then
added to an original image signal by an adder 78.

The Y, M, and C (yellow, magenta, and cyan) toners

1 are not preferably printed in black thin line portions
 during printing of the Y, M, and C. A signal of "1" is
 output to the multiplier by the selector 76 in response
 to the color selection signal 577. A signal ((v) in
 5 Fig. 12D) obtained by smoothing an output from a LUTB
 736 is output from a selector 79. The same signal as
 that ((v) in Fig. 12D) is input to the adder 78, and
 only a black edge signal is subtracted from the
 original signal.

10 That is, a signal for determining the amount of
 black toner for a black edge portion has a large
 amplitude. In other words, the amount of black toner
 is increased, and the amounts of Y, M, and C toners for
 the same portion are decreased, thereby emphasizing the
 15 black portion.

A signal 581 as a binary signal obtained by
 binarizing an achromatic signal 580 by a binarization
 circuit 80b is set at level "1" for an achromatic color
 and "0" for a chromatic color. As described above, in
 20 the black toner printing mode (i.e., when 577 = "1"), S
 input = "1", i.e., the A input or 579 ((iii) in
 Fig. 12D) is output from the selector 79, and the black
 edge is emphasized. In the Y,M,C toner printing mode
 (i.e., when 577 = "0"), the signal 581 = "1" is set.
 25 The B input is selected to decrease the amounts of Y,
 M, and C toners for an achromatic color, and the signal
 (v) in Fig. 12D is selected. However, as for a

1 chromatic color, the signal 581 = 0, and therefore 581
 = 1, i.e., the S input to the selector 79 is set at
 "1". The A input is selected, and the signal (iii) in
 Fig. 12D is output to the adder 78, thus performing
 5 known edge emphasis.

The LUTA 73a comprises two LUTs. One LUT which
 sets a zero output for an edge signal value of $\pm n$ or
 less, and the other LUT sets a zero output for the edge
 signal value of $\pm m$ or less. The LUTA 73a selects a
 10 value for clamping an input to zero in accordance with
 an original density, i.e., the level of the original
 signal 565. When a density level of an original is
 higher than a value set from the CPU 22 through the bus
 58, i.e., the original density is high, an output from
 15 a comparator 81 is set at "1". In this case, the LUT
 clamped to zero at A' and B' in Fig. 12A is selected.
 When the density value of the original is smaller than
 the value set by the CPU 22, i.e., when the output from
 the comparator 81 is set at "0", the LUT clamped to
 20 zero at A and B is selected. Therefore, noise
 reduction can be effectively performed in accordance
 with density levels.

An output 583 from an AND gate 82 is obtained by
 further performing an improvement for an edge portion
 25 of a black character. The signal 583 is used to select
 an output from an AND gate 584 (B input) in the Y,M,C
 printing mode and an input 585 in other modes. A

1 signal 586 input to the AND gate 585 is obtained by
 causing a binarization circuit 80a to binarize a signal
 obtained by giving the LUTC (Fig. 12C) characteristics
 to the edge signal. That is, when the absolute value
 5 of the edge signal exceeds a predetermined value, the
 signal 586 is set at "1". Otherwise, the signal 586 is
 set at "0". If 587 = "1", 581 = "1", and 588 = "L",
 then the amplitude of the edge signal is large and the
 color is an achromatic color. In other words, these
 10 conditions indicate an edge portion of a black signal,
 and printing of Y, M, and C toners. At this time, the
 signal for determining the amounts of Y, M, and C
 toners is subtracted from the original signal in a
 portion corresponding to the black edge, as previously
 15 described. The remaining signal is smoothed by an
 averaging circuit 84 and is output from an output 589
 of the selector 83 when a signal ER is set at "1".
 Otherwise, the normally edge-emphasized signal 585
 appears at the output 589 of the selector 83.

20 The signal ER is controlled by the CPU 22. When
 the signal ER is set at "1", an output from the
 averaging circuit 84 appears at the output 589.
 However, when the signal ER is set at "0", a signal of
 "0" appears at the output 589. This leads to an effect
 25 wherein the color toner signals (Y, M, and C signals)
 of the edge of the black color are perfectly disabled
 to eliminate color blurring. The above operations can

1 be arbitrarily selected.

Figs. 13A to 13F are views for explaining generation of area signals (MAREA 566, UAREA 572, and KAREA 573) in the area generator 69. An area is defined as a portion indicated by a hatched portion, e.g., in Fig. 13E. This area is represented by a signal such as a signal AREA in the timing chart of Fig. 13E every line, i.e., every HSYNC during the sub-scan period and should be distinguished from other areas. The area defined above can be designated with the digitizer 16 or the like.

Figs. 13A to 13D are views for programmably obtaining a large number of area signal positions, a large number of section lengths, and a large number of sections by the CPU 22. In this arrangement, one area signal is generated by one bit of a RAM accessed by the CPU. For example, in order to obtain n area signals AREA0 to AREAn, two n -bit RAMs are prepared (85A and 85B in Fig. 13D).

20 In order to obtain the signals AREA0 and AREAn shown in Fig. 13B, bits 0 of addresses $x1$ and $x3$ of the RAM are set at "1", and remaining address bits 0 are set to be all "0"s. On the other hand, addresses 1, $x1$, $x2$, and $x4$ of the RAM are set to be "1", and the remaining address bits n are set to be all "0"s. When the data from the RAM are sequentially read out in synchronism with a predetermined clock with reference

1 to the horizontal sync signal HSYNC. As shown in
 Fig. 13C, data of "1" are read at points of addresses
 x1 and x3. The readout data are input to J and K
 terminals of J-K flip-flops 86-1 to 86-n, and outputs
 5 appear as toggle outputs. That is, when the data of
 "1" is read out from the RAM and the clock CLK is
 input, the output is changed from level "0" to "1" or
 level "1" to "0". A section signal such as the signal
 AREA0 and then the area signal are output. When all
 10 the address bits are set to be all "0"s, no area
 section is generated, and any area is not designated.

Fig. 13D shows a circuit arrangement of the above
 operation. This circuit includes the RAMs 85A and 85B.
 For example, data are read out from the RAMA 85A every
 15 switching of the area sections at high speed, while
 data are written in the RAMB 85B at different positions
 by the CPU 22. In this manner, section generation and
 memory write access from the CPU are alternately
 switched. When hatched areas shown in Fig. 13F are to
 20 be designated, the RAMA and RAMB are switched in an
 order of A, B, A, B, and A. As shown in Fig. 13D, if
 $(C3, C4, C5) = (0, 1, 0)$, then a counter output counted by
 the signal VCLK is supplied as an address (Aa) to the
 RAMA 85A through a selector 87A, so that a gate 88A is
 25 enabled and a gate 88B is disabled to read out data
 from the RAMA 85A. An n-bit signal of a full bit width
 is input to the J-K flip-flops 86-0 to 86-n, and

1 section signals of AREA0 to AREAn are generated in
accordance with a set value.

Data is written from the CPU to the RAMA through
an address bus A-Bus and a data bus D-Bus in accordance
5 with an access signal R/W. However, when a section
signal is to be generated on the basis of data set in
the RAMB 85B, condition (C3,C4,C5) = (1,0,1) is set,
thereby writing data from the CPU to the RAMA 85A.

Image processing such as cutting out (trimming)
10 and frame omissions can be easily performed on the
basis of, e.g., these area signals. That is, an area
signal 590 generated by the area generator 69 in Fig. 2
is selected by a selector 89 in response to an area
switching signal ECH 591 output from an I/O port 25 and
15 is input to an AND gate 90. As is apparent from
Fig. 13B, when the signal 590 is generated as indicated
by AREA0, image cutting out is performed from the
address x1 to the address x3. However, when a signal
of AREAn is generated, a frame omission is performed
20 between x1 and x2. Therefore, it is readily understood
that image cutting out is performed during periods
between 1 to x1 and between x2 to x4.

Figs. 14A to 15 show an arrangement of an area
limiting mask bit map memory 91 and control timings.
25 As can be understood from Fig. 2, an area limiting mask
for limiting an area to a specific color area in an
original can be formed by a detection output 592 from a

1 color conversion circuit (to be described later). An
 area control mask corresponding to a density value (or
 a signal level) can be formed by a signal 593 binarized
 by a binarization circuit 92 on the basis of the video
 5 image signal 560 input from the external image memory
 apparatus 3.

Fig. 14A is a block diagram of the area limiting
 mask bit map memory 91 and shows its detailed control.
 The mask has each block consisting of 4 x 4 pixels, as
 10 shown in Fig. 15. Each block corresponds to one bit of
 the bit map memory. For example, the bit map memory 91
 can be constituted by two 1-Mbit RAM chips, i.e., $(297$
 $\times 420 \times 16 \times 16)/16 \approx 2$ Mbits, for an A3 size ($= 297$ mm
 $\times 420$ mm).

15 The signals 592 and 593 input to a selector 93 in
 Fig. 14A are data input signals for mask generation.
 For example, when the output 593 from the binarization
 circuit 92 in Fig. 2 is selected by a switching line
 594, the selected signal is input to buffers 94A, 94B,
 20 94C, and 94D of 1 bit x 4 lines to count "1"s in a 4 x
 4 block. The FIFOs 94A to 94D are connected such that
 an output from the FIFO 94A is input to the FIFO 94B,
 and an output from the FIFO 94B is input to the FIFO
 94C. The outputs from the FIFOs are input as 4-bit
 25 parallel data to latches 95A to 95C in response to the
 signal VCLK (timing chart in Fig. 14D). An output 595A
 from the FIFO and outputs 595B, 595C, and 595D from the

1 latches 95A, 95B, and 95C are added by adders 96A, 96B,
 and 96C (signal 596), and sums are compared by a
 comparator 97 with a value (e.g., "12") set by the CPU
 22 through the I/O port 25. That is, the comparator 97
 5 determines whether the number of "1"s in the 4 x 4
 block is larger than a predetermined value.

Referring to Fig. 14D, since the number of "1"s
 within a block N is "14, and the number of "1"s within
 a block (N+1) is "4", an output 597 from the comparator
 10 97 in Fig. 14A is set to "1" for "14" but "0" for "4"
 and is latched by a latch 98 once in the 4 x 4 block in
 response to a latch pulse 598. A Q output from the
 latch 98 is input to the D_{IN} input of a memory 99,
 i.e., serves as mask forming data. An H address
 15 counter 100H generates a main scan address of the mask
 memory, and one address is assigned to this counter by
 the 4 x 4 block. The address counter 100H counts up
 clock pulses obtained by frequency-dividing the pixel
 clock VCLK by a frequency divider 101H. Similarly, an
 20 address counter 100V generates a sub-scan address of
 the mask memory. The address counter 100V counts up
 clock pulses obtained by frequency-dividing the sync
 signal HSYNC of each line by a frequency divider 101V.
 The H and V addressing operations are controlled in
 25 synchronism with counting (addition) of "1"s within the
 4 x 4 block.

Two lower rank bits 599 and 600 of the V address

1 counter 100V are logically NORed by a NOR gate 102 to
 generate a signal 602 for gating a 1/4 clock 601. A
 latch signal 598 is generated so that an AND gate 103
 latches the signal 602 once within the 4 x 4 block, as
 5 shown in the timing chart of Fig. 14C. The CPU bus 508
 (Fig. 2) includes a data bus 603 and an address bus
 604. A signal 605 serves as a write pulse WR from the
 CPU 22. In the WR (write) mode for writing data from
 the CPU 22 to the memory 99, the write pulse WR is set
 10 to be "Lo" level, and the address and data buses from
 the CPU 22 are connected to the memory 99.

Predetermined data are randomly written in the memory
 99. When the WR (write) and RD (read) operations are
 sequentially performed by the H and V address counters
 15 100H and 100V, gates 107 and 108 connected to the I/O
 port 25 are enabled, and sequential address signals are
 input to the memory 99.

For example, when a mask shown in Fig. 16 is
 formed by the output 593 from the binarization circuit
 20 92, the output 592 from the color conversion circuit,
 or the CPU 22, image cutting out or synthesis on the
 basis of the area within the thick frame line can be
 performed.

In the mask formed in units of 4 x 4 pixel blocks,
 25 an edge portion (boundary portion) of the block is
 stepwise due to the units of 4 pixels, and the stepwise
 boundary is smoothed by an interpolation circuit 109

1 shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 17A is a block diagram of the interpolation circuit. The interpolation circuit includes a selector 110. The A input of the selector 110 receives a Hi clamp input, i.e., FFH (in the case of 8 bits), and the
 5 B input of the selector 110 receives a GND level, i.e., 00H. The selector 110 selects one of the inputs in response to an output 606 from the bit map memory. Data of FFH is input to an interpolation circuit 111
 10 when an area is designated within the mask. Otherwise, data of 00H is input to the interpolation circuit 111, as shown in (i) of Fig. 17B. The interpolation circuit 111 may employ any interpolation method such as linear interpolation, higher-order interpolation, or sinc
 15 interpolation, and its circuit arrangement may be a well-known arrangement. An output from the interpolation circuit 111 is a multi-value output. This multi-value output is binarized by a binarization circuit 112. A boundary is smoothed as indicated by B
 20 in (ii) of Fig. 17B, as compared with a stepwise boundary indicated by A. The interpolation mode of the circuit shown in Fig. 17A is switched whether the output from the mask memory is directly output (A) or an interpolated mask signal representing a smooth
 25 boundary is output (B) in accordance with a switching signal 608 connected to the I/O port of the CPU 22, as needed. For example, when the interpolated output is

1 selected by the signal 608 and the signal ECH is
switched to select an output from the area limiting
mask by the selector 89 shown in Fig. 2,
non-rectangular figure cutting out can be performed by
5 the mask using the AND gate 90, as shown in Fig. 18A.
When the mask memory output from the bit map memory 91
is extracted through a signal line 607 shown in Fig. 2,
is selected by a selector 114, and is synthesized by
the sythesization circuit 115, an output is obtained,
10 as shown in Fig. 18B.

A density conversion circuit 116 shown in Fig. 2
can change the density and gradation in units of
colors, as shown in Fig. 19 and comprises an LUT
(look-up table). A repeat circuit 118 comprises a
15 FIFO, as shown in Fig. 20A. A signal 609 serves as an
HSYNC signal, as shown in Fig. 20B. The signal 609 of
Lo level is input as a line sync signal every line to
initialize a WR (write) pointer (not shown) in the
FIFO. The FIFO 589 receives input image data 611 and
20 outputs output image data 612. A signal Repeat 616
initializes an RD (read) pointer. As shown in the
timing chart of Fig. 20B, data 1 to 10 sequentially
written in the FIFO are repeatedly read out in an order
of 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, and 3 in response to the
25 Repeat signals 616. That is, by supplying the
identical Repeat signals 616 to the FIFO every line,
identical images are repeated, as shown in Fig. 20C.

1 Therefore, as shown in Fig. 21A, data of "1" is written
 in the bit map mask area forming memory and is read out
 and synthesized by the synthesization circuit 115 shown
 in Fig. 1, thereby forming a dotted line (cutting
 5 line).

As described above, the area generator 69 controls
 to cause the repeat circuit 118 to generate the Repeat
 signal at timings ① and ② in Fig. 21A, and a
 cutting line can be formed for the repeated images. As
 10 shown in Fig. 21B, data of "1" is written to form a
 ruled line as shown in Fig. 21C, thereby forming a
 black frame for each image. An image signal 612 output
 from the repeat circuit 118 is input to the image
 synthesization circuit 115 and is subjected to various
 15 kinds of image processing.

<Synthesis>

The synthesization circuit will be described in
 detail with reference to Fig. 25A.

Editing processing in the synthesization circuit
 20 is programmably performed on the basis of data set in
 RAMs 135 and 136 shown in Fig. 25A in units of
 designated areas. That is, data are processed in units
 of code numbers (to be referred to as area codes
 hereafter) obtained by an area code generating circuit
 25 130 (to be described in detail later).

The above area designation and the various kinds
 of editing processing are performed by setting

1 parameters corresponding to editing processing. These
parameters are set in the area code generating circuit
130, the RAMs 135 and 136, and registers 140 to 142
through the CPU bus 508 by the CPU in accordance with
5 commands from the digitizer 16, the operation unit 20,
and the image memory apparatus 3.

Referring to Fig. 25A, a selector 132 selects the
output from the area code generating circuit 130 or a
register 131. The area code generating circuit 130
10 automatically generates an area code in response to the
sync signal HSYNC and the clock CLK. The register 131
receives a signal from the CPU bus 508. The RAMs 135
and 136 store tables of area codes and processing or
image data in correspondence with the area codes. The
15 table contents of the RAMs 135 and 136 are given such
that codes input through the selector 132 as input
address signals and the codes C0 and C1 representing
image colors in surface sequential image formation of
the printer are input, and a 3-bit function code and
20 8-bit data are output, as shown in Fig. 25F. The 3-bit
function code is supplied to a decoder 146 through a
selector 137. An example of the function code is a
character add-on command or a masking command for a
specific image area (to be described later). Examples
25 of the 8-bit data are various image processing
parameters (e.g., density control data of the image
signal). Selectors 139, 143, and 145 are switched in

1 response to decoder outputs S0, S1, S2, S3, and S4. A
multiplier 144 multiplies outputs from the selectors
143 and 145. A decoder 146 decodes a most significant
bit MSB 621 (this is output from the area code
5 generating circuit 130 to be set at "1" at the end of
each area of the image, as shown in Fig. 25E) of 6-bit
data input through the selector 132, character signals
represented by signals 613 and 614 in Fig. 2, and the
function code input through the selector 137.

10 The area code will be described below. The area
code is defined as a means for distinguishing one area
from another. That is, area codes or area numbers are
assigned to areas 148 upon their designation with the
digitizer 16 on an original 147, as shown in Fig. 25B.
15 In this embodiment, the entire area of the original is
assigned with area code "0". As shown in Fig. 25B, a
rectangular area having a diagonal line connecting
points a and b is assigned with area code "1", and a
rectangular area having a diagonal line connecting
20 points c and d is assigned with area code "2". The
area code is generated at a timing (the lower part of
Fig. 25B) synchronous with scanning when a section A -
B is scanned, as shown in Fig. 25B. This can apply to
sections C - D and E - F. The area codes are generated
25 simultaneously with scanning of the original, and the
areas are distinguished from each other, thereby
performing different kinds of image processing and

1 editing in units of areas in real time.

The above setting operations are performed with the digitizer 16 and the operation unit 20. The maximum number of set area is determined by the number of bits of the area code. If the area code is an n-bit code, a maximum of 2^n areas can be set.

Fig. 25C shows a schematic arrangement of the area code generating circuit 130 in Fig. 25A. The area code generating circuit 130 is a circuit for generating area codes in real time in synchronism with scanning of the original. Coordinates of an area obtained by an area designating means such as the digitizer and the area code are set, thereby programmably generating the area code. The generating circuit 130 will be described in detail below.

RAMs 153 and 154 comprise memories each having a one main-scan line capacity of 7 bits x 1 word. These RAMs are connected to the CPU through a CPU address bus 627 and a data bus 625. An address counter 149 counts video clock pulses CLK to generate a RAM address. The counter 149 is reset in response to the signal HSYNC and supplies the same address to the RAMs 153 and 154 through selectors 151 and 152 every scanning of a new line. The RAMs 153 and 154 are reset and data can be read out from the beginning. An interruption generator 155 generates an interruption signal INT to the CPU when a programmed number of HSYNC pulses set by the CPU

1 using a chip select signal 624 is counted. The
interruption generator 155 switches the RAMs which can
be read-accessed by the address counter 149 upon a
toggle operation of a J-K flip-flop 158. Each of the
5 selectors 151 and 152, and a selector 156 selects the A
or B input to select the RAM 153 or 154.

Fig. 25D is a view for explaining a data structure
of the RAM 153 or 154. The memory bits are divided
into an MSB bit and six lower rank bits. The MSB
10 represents a change point between a designated area and
a non-designated area. The six lower rank bits store a
corresponding changing area code. The addresses of the
RAM correspond to Y-coordinates in the main scan
direction. Fig. 25D shows RAM data when a section A -
15 B of a designated area 159 (area code "20") on an
original 150 shown in Fig. 25E is scanned. In this
case, the entire area of the original is assigned to
area code "0". A set area is assigned with area code
"20". The RAMs 153 and 154 are sequentially accessed
20 in response to address signals generated by the address
counter 149 of Fig. 25C to read out data, thereby
generating area codes. For example, when the section A
- B is to be scanned, as shown in Fig. 25E, the MSB is
set at "1", and the six lower rank bits are set at all
25 "0"s immediately after scanning, i.e., area code "0" is
read out. As shown in Fig. 25C, the six lower rank
bits are latched by a latch 157 in response to a latch

1 signal given by the MSB 627, and area code "0" is
 output. When scanning reaches a point $a(O,P)$, the MSB
 of the RAM output is set at "1", and the six lower rank
 bits are set to "20". The six lower rank bits are
 5 latched and area code "20" is then read out. That is,
 area code "20" is kept output from the latch 157 until
 a new address \underline{x} is read out and new data is latched.

When scanning progresses and main scanning in the
 Y direction is completed, scanning advances by one
 10 pixel in the X direction. In this case, the signal
 HSYNC is counted by the interruption generator 155, and
 the address counter 149 is reset, as previously
 described. The address from the address counter 149 is
 then started from zero. Since the area is rectangular,
 15 the same data, i.e., one of the RAMs 153 and 154, is
 kept read out until the end of scanning of the section
 C - D including the point \underline{b} in Fig. 25E. When a count
 (q-o in this case) of the HSYNC pulses in the X
 direction is set in the interruption generator 155, the
 20 interruption generator 155 generates the interruption
 signal INT when scanning from the section A - B to the
 section C - D is completed. At the same time, the RAM
 is switched by the selector 156 upon a toggle operation
 of the J-K flip-flop 158 in Fig. 25C. The next area
 25 information programmed by the CPU is output from the
 RAM selected by the selector 156. Upon generation of
 the interruption signal INT, the CPU sets a new area

1 designation signal in the interruption generator 155
and the OFF RAM (i.e., the RAM which is not selected by
the selector 156) in accordance with coordinates of an
area obtained by the area designating means described
5 above and the area code. This setting can be performed
under the control of the data bus 625 from the CPU 22
and chip select signals C2' and C3'. With the above
arrangement, i.e., alternate switching of the two RAMs,
the area codes 626 for the entire surface of the
10 original can be generated with a small memory capacity
by programming the OFF RAM by the CPU.

The area code 626 generated by the area code
generating circuit 130 shown in Fig. 25A is input
together with an image signal to the selector 132.
15 Editing processing in units of areas is performed on
the basis of the input area code.

The area code generating circuit 130 generates
area codes for rectangular areas. However, in this
embodiment, the area code generating circuit 130 is
20 arranged to cope with a non-rectangular area. For this
purpose, the register 131 and the selector 132 are
arranged.

The register 131 shown in Fig. 25A is connected to
the CPU bus 508. Area codes corresponding to
25 non-rectangular areas are stored in the register 131.

At this time, when a non-rectangular area signal
615 is input from the image memory apparatus 3, a

1 value set in the register 131 is selected by the
 selector 132 using the signal 615 as a select signal.
 A non-rectangular area code corresponding to the input
 non-rectangular area signal is obtained.

5 The area code is a 6-bit code as previously
 described. The MSB 621 is input to the decoder 146 and
 the selector 137. The remaining six lower rank bits
 are input as a parallel signal to the RAMs 135 and 136.

The RAMs 135 and 136 are programmable memories
 10 connected to the CPU bus (including the data and
 address buses 625 and 627) 508.

Fig. 25F shows a data structure of the RAM 135 or
 136. The RAM has a data structure 133. The RAM
 receives a 4-bit area code and a 2-bit color select
 15 signal 629 as address inputs, i.e., a total of six
 bits. At this time, the color select signals C0, C1,
 and C2 are converted into 2-bit signal, i.e., C0 and C1
 starting from the LSB (least significant bit) to
 determine whether a surface sequential image signal
 20 represents one of the colors, so that the address is
 changed in units of area codes and colors.

In this embodiment, images are transferred to the
 printer in an order of M (magenta), C (cyan), Y
 (yellow), and Bk (black) in accordance with the surface
 25 sequential image formation scheme. At this time, kinds
 of colors to be transferred are represented by the
 color select 629 signals C0 and C1 shown in Fig. 25A

1 (these signals are the same as the signals C0 and C1
 shown in Fig. 10A). Its data structure 134 is shown in
 Fig. 25F. This data structure includes a 3-bit
 function code starting from the MSB. This code is
 5 decoded to perform different image processing
 operations in accordance with the different code
 contents. In this embodiment, since the 3-bit function
 code is used, a maximum of six image editing operations
 in units of area codes or colors can be performed. The
 10 eight lower rank bits are used to represent various
 parameters for image processing or editing in
 accordance with the contents of the function codes.

Data selected by the area code and the color
 select signal, i.e., a 3-bit function code extracted
 15 from the MSB is input to the selector 137 in Fig. 25A,
 and the 3-bit function codes from the two RAMs are
 switched by the area code MSB 621. The lower rank
 8-bit data is selected by the selector 139 in response
 to the select signal S1 from the decoder 146.

20 The selected function code is input to the decoder
 146 and is combined with a character signal 622 or the
 area code MSB bit 621, thereby generating a control
 signal 623 for performing editing processing. Each
 control signal is used as a selector select signal to
 25 perform editing by changing a signal flow. In this
 embodiment, the following six editing functions can be
 realized by the control signals:

1 [1] Through Processing within Area

 This function is to output an image signal for the designated area without any processing. An input image signal passes through a negative/positive inverter (to
5 be described later) 138 and is input to the multiplier 144 through the selector 143 in response to the select signal S2. One of the RAM data is selected by the selector 139 in response to the select signal S1. The signal is selected by the selector 145 in response to
10 the select signals S3 and S4 and is multiplied with the image signal by the multiplier 144, and the product signal is output. At this time, the image density is determined by the RAM data input from the multiplier 144. When different counts are set for different
15 colors sent in accordance with the surface sequential scheme, the density and the color balance can be variably controlled independently in units of areas.

 When color balance of each area is set after the area is designated by the operator at the operation
20 panel, the CPU writes these set values in the RAM 135 or 136 through the bus 508. The B input of the selector 145 is selected, and the selected signal is multiplied with the image signal 612 by the multiplier 144.

25 [2] Masking within Area

 This function is to paint the entire area within a designated area uniformly with an arbitrarily color.

1 For example, when this function is set and a given area
 is scanned, RAM data is selected in place of the image
 signal in response to the signal S2, and the selected
 signal is input to the multiplier 144. The register
 5 142 is selected in response to the control signals S3
 and S4, and an appropriate coefficient, e.g., "1" is
 stored from the CPU to the register 142 connected to
 the CPU through the CPU bus. The data is multiplied
 with the coefficient by the multiplier 144, and the
 10 product signal is output from the multiplier 144.

[3] Character Insertion within Area (1)

For example, this function is to insert a
 character 160 in a designated area 159 of an image
 shown in Fig. 25G. For example, character data 161
 15 is stored in the bit map memory. Binary data of a
 character is scanned and read out from the memory at a
 timing (Fig. 25G) simultaneously with scanning of the
 designated area, thereby generating a character signal
 622. This signal is input as a character signal 622
 20 shown in Fig. 25A to switch the selector 143. More
 specifically, when the character signal 622 is set at
 High level, the decoder 146 outputs signals S0 to S4 so
 that the selector 143 selects data from the RAM 135 or
 136. When the character signal 622 is set at Low
 25 level, the decoder 146 outputs the signals S0 to S4 so
 that the selector 143 selects the image signal, thereby
 performing insertion of the character. The character

1 signal and the control signals S3 and S4 are changed.
 The coefficient of the multiplier 144 is used to select
 the register 140 when the character signal 622 is set
 at High level. In the same manner as described above,
 5 the register 140 is connected to the CPU bus, and an
 appropriate coefficient is set in the register 140.
 The coefficient of "1" is normally set in the register
 140. In particular, the coefficient set in the
 register 140 is changed to variably change the density
 10 of the insertion character.

[4] Character Insertion within Area (2)

This function is to mask a designated area with a
 designated color and to insert a character with another
 designated color within the designated area, as shown
 15 in Fig. 25H. During scanning of the designated area,
 the selector 143 selects the RAM data. As described
 above, the selector 139 is switched by the character
 signal obtained from the bit map memory shown in
 Fig. 25G. That is, when an input signal does not
 20 represent a character, data is output from the RAM 135.
 Otherwise, the RAM 136 is selected. Density data of a
 character within the designated area is written in the
 RAM 135, and the density data 135 of a portion except
 for a character data outside the area is written in the
 25 RAM 136 through the CPU 508.

The registers 142 and 140 are selected to output
 coefficients together with the character signal. The

1 coefficients are operated in the multiplier 144, and
the operation result is output from the multiplier 144.

Since the registers 140 and 142 are independently
arranged, the densities of the character portion and
5 the portion except for the character portion can
independently set.

[5] Negative/Positive Inversion within Area

This function is to preform negative/positive
inversion only for an image within an area and is to
10 output it, by switching negative/positive inversion
CKT 138 by means of a control signal SO. The output
from the CKT 138 is output with a setting equal to
that of the above through function.

[6] Insertion of Negative/Positive Inversion 15 Character within Area

The character insertion function [1] is combined
with negative/positive inversion within the area to
insert a character in a negative/positive inversion
image. A character inserting means is the same as that
20 described above, and a detailed description thereof
will be omitted.

In the embodiment described above, an operation of
the decoder 146 shown in Fig. 25A is shown in Fig. 25I.

25 Numerals 1 to 6 in the leftmost column represent
the functions [1] to [6] described above. The "input"
on the left side represents an input to the decoder
146, and the "output" on the right side represents

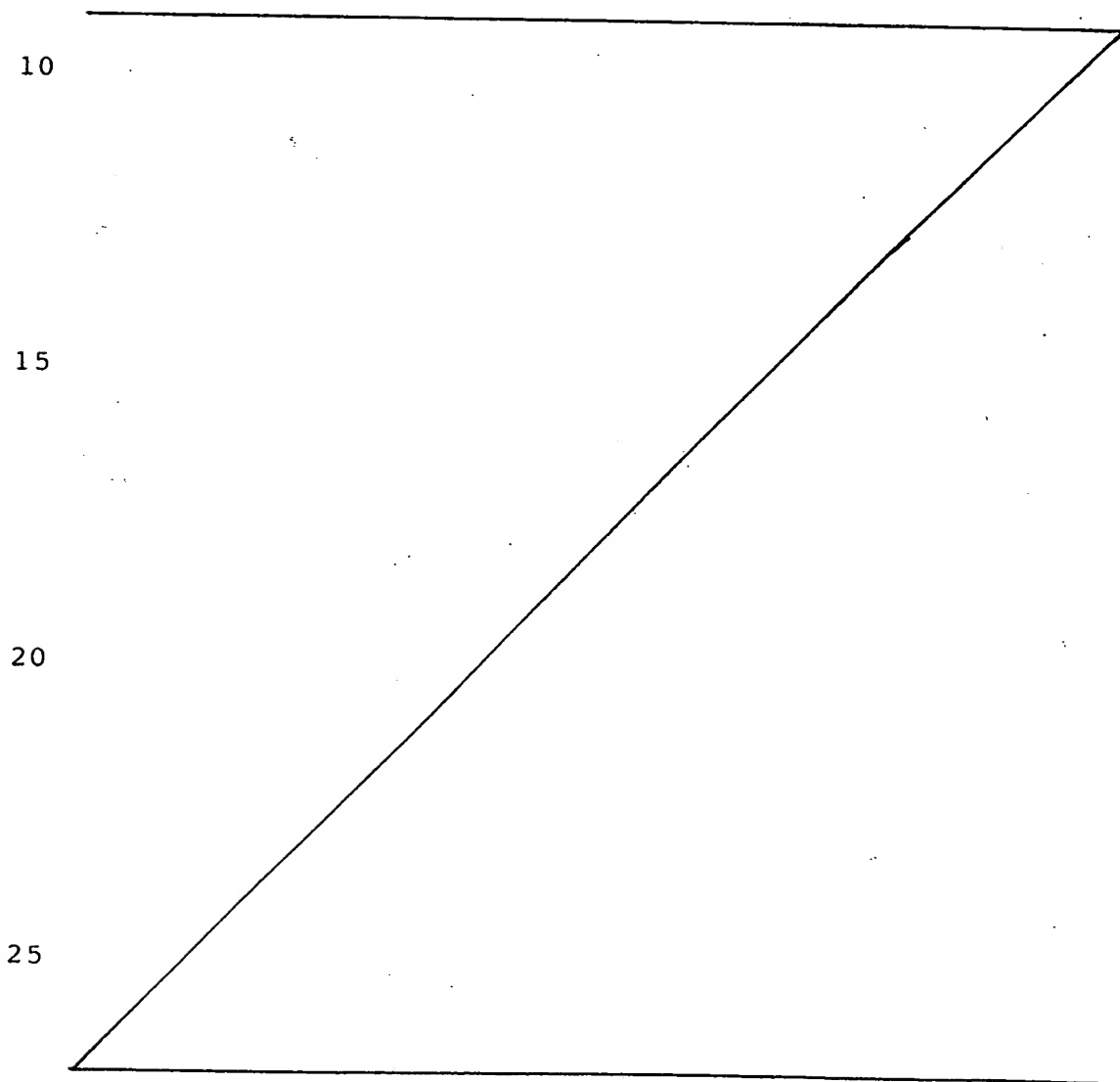
- 1 outputs S0 to S4 from the decoder 146.

As described above, the image information processed by the video processing unit 12 is output to the color printer 2 through the printer interface 56.

- 5 <Description of Color Printer 2>

The arrangement of the color printer 2 will be described with reference to Fig. 1.

The printer 2 shown in Fig. 1 includes a scanner



1 711 which serves as a laser output unit for converting
an image signal from the color reader 1 into an optical
signal, a polygonal mirror 712 having a polygonal shape
(octagon), a motor (not shown) for rotating the
5 polygonal mirror 712, and an f/θ lens (focusing lens)
713. The printer 2 also includes a reflecting mirror
714 for changing an optical path of a laser beam from
the scanner 711 as indicated by the alternate long and
short dashed line in Fig. 1, and a photosensitive drum
10 715.

A laser beam emitted from the laser output unit is
reflected by the polygonal mirror 712 and linearly
scans (raster scan) the surface of the photosensitive
drum 715 by the f/θ lens 713 and the reflecting mirror
15 714, thereby forming a latent image corresponding to an
original image.

The printer 2 further includes a primary charger
717, an entire surface exposure lamp 718, a cleaner
unit 723 for recovering a residual toner which is not
20 transferred to the recording medium, a transfer
precharger 724, all of which are arranged around the
photosensitive drum 715, and a developing unit 726 for
developing a latent image formed on the surface of the
photosensitive drum 715 with laser exposure.

25 Developing sleeves 731Y (yellow), 731M (magenta), 731C
(cyan), and 731Bk (black) are selectively brought into
direct contact with the photosensitive drum 715 to

1 perform color development. Toner hoppers 730Y, 730M,
730C, and 730Bk store the corresponding supplementary
toners. A screw 732 feeds each color developing agent.
The sleeves 731Y to 731Bk, the toner hoppers 730Y to
5 730Bk, and the screw 732 constitute the developing unit
726. These members are arranged around a rotating
shaft P of the developing unit 726.

For example, in order to form a yellow toner
image, yellow toner development is performed at the
10 position shown in Fig. 1. In order to form a magenta
toner image, the developing unit 726 is rotated about
the shaft P to locate the developing sleeve 731M in the
magenta developing unit at a contact position with the
photosensitive drum 715. Cyan and black developing
15 operations are performed by rotating the developing
unit 726 about the shaft P.

A transfer drum 716 transfers a toner image formed
on the photosensitive drum 715 to a sheet. An actuator
plate 719 detects an angular position of the transfer
20 drum 716. A position sensor 720 detects a home
position of the transfer drum 716 when the actuator
plate 718 comes close to the transfer drum 716. A
transfer drum cleaner 725, a paper press roller 727, a
discharger 728, and a transfer charger 729 are arranged
25 around the transfer drum 716.

Sheets are stored in paper cassettes 735 and 736.
Paper feed rollers 737 and 738 feed the sheets from the

1 cassettes 735 and 736. Timing rollers 739, 740, and
741 control paper feed and convey timings. A sheet fed
and conveyed by the above members is wound around the
transfer drum 716 while the sheet is carried by
5 grippers (to be described later), and an image forming
process is then started.

A drum rotation motor 550 causes to synchronously
rotate the photosensitive drum 715 and the transfer
drum 716. A separation gripper 750 separates the sheet
10 from the transfer drum 716, and the separated sheet is
conveyed by a conveyor belt 743. An image fixing unit
743 fixes an image on the sheet conveyed by the
conveyor belt 743. A rotational force of a motor 747
mounted on a motor mounting portion 748 is transmitted
15 to a pair of heat and press rollers 744 and 745 through
a transmission gear 746 in the image fixing unit 743,
thereby fixing the image on the sheet conveyed between
the heat and press rollers 744 and 745.

Print-out processing of the printer 2 having the
20 above arrangement will be described with reference to a
timing chart of Fig. 22.

When the first signal ITOP signal is input, a Y
latent image is formed on the photosensitive drum 715
with a laser beam. The Y latent image is developed by
25 the developing unit 731Y, and the toner image is
transferred onto a sheet on the transfer drum, thereby
completing magenta print process. The developing unit

1 726 is pivoted about the shaft P.

When the next signal ITOP 551 is input, an M latent image is formed on the photosensitive drum with a laser beam, and the cyan print process is performed as described above. Yellow and black print processes are performed for the C and Bk components in correspondence with the subsequent signals ITOP 551. In this manner, the image forming process is completed, the sheet is separated by the separation grippers 750, and fixing is performed by the image fixing unit 743. Thus, a series of color printing operations are completed.

<Description of Film Scanner 34>

The film scanner 34 shown in Fig. 1 will be described with reference to Fig. 45.

The film scanner 34 includes a transmitting original illumination light source (lamp) 3001, a heat ray absorbing filter 3002 for removing heat rays from optical rays from the light source 3001, an illumination optical system 3003 for collimating illumination light passing through the filter 3002, a sub-scan drive table 3004 for moving a transmitting original 3007 such as a 35-mm photographic film in the sub-scan direction, a rotary table 3005 for rotating the transmitting original, a film holder 3006 for storing the transmitting original, a movable mirror 3008 which can cross the optical path of the light ray

1 (original image) passing through the transmitting
original 3007, a deflecting mirror 3009 for deflecting
the optical path of the original image, and a
photographing lens 3010 for focusing the original image
5 through the mirror 3009.

The film scanner 34 also includes a lamp holding
member 3017 for supporting the light source 3001 and
CCD positioning mechanisms 3064. CCD line sensors
3061, 3062, and 3063 using CCD (Charge-Coupled Device)
10 arrays having R, G, and B color separation filters
photoelectrically convert the transmitted original
image focused by the photographing lens 3010.

An analog circuit 3025 amplifies analog outputs
from the CCD line sensors 3061, 3062, and 3063 and
15 converts these analog signals into digital signals. A
generator 3026 for signal for adjustment generates a
reference signal for the analog circuit 3025. A dark
correction circuit 3027 performs dark correction of R,
G, and B digital image signals from the analog circuit
20 3025. A shading correction circuit 3028 performs
shading correction of an output signal from the dark
correction circuit 3027. A pixel shift correction
circuit 3029 corrects a main-scan pixel shift of an
output signal from the shading correction circuit 3028.

25 A color conversion circuit 3030 converts R, G, B
signals through the pixel shift correction circuit 3029
into Y (yellow), M (magenta), and C (cyan) color

1 signals corresponding to an output device. An LUT
(look-up table) 3031 performs LOG conversion and gamma
conversion. An output from the LUT 3031 is input to an
interface circuit 3038 and a minimum value detection
5 circuit 3032.

The minimum value detection circuit 3032 detects a
minimum value of an output signal from the LUT 3031.
An LUT 3033 outputs a control amount for undercolor
removal (UCR) corresponding to a detection value from
10 the minimum value detection circuit 3032. A masking
circuit 3034 performs masking processing for an output
signal from the LUT 3031. A UCR circuit 3035 performs
undercolor removal of an output signal from the masking
circuit 3034 on the basis of an output value from the
15 LUT 3033. A density conversion circuit 3036 converts a
recording density of an output signal from the UCR
circuit 3035 into a designated density. A variable
magnification processing circuit 3037 converts an
output signal from the density conversion circuit 3036
20 into a designated magnification.

The interface (I/F) circuit 3038 performs signal
transmission between this film scanner and the color
reader 1 or the image memory apparatus 3. A controller
3039 controls the entire film scanner. The controller
25 3039 includes a CPU (Central Processing Unit) such as a
microcomputer, a ROM (Read-Only Memory) for storing a
storing sequence in the form of a program, and a RAM

1 (Random Access Memory) used as a data storage serving
as a work area.

An operation unit 3041 inputs various commands to
the controller 3039, and a display unit 3042 displays
5 control states of the controller 3039.

A lens iris control unit 3034 performs iris
control of the photographing lens 3010. A lens
distance ring control unit 3044 performs focal control
of the photographing lens 3010. A mirror drive unit
10 3045 drives the movable mirror 3008.

A film feeding control unit 3048 drives the film
holder 3006 and feeds a film. A sub-scan control unit
3049 controls scanning of the sub-scan drive table
3004. A control circuit 3050 for amount of light from
15 lamp controls a light amount of the light source (lamp)
3001. A driving source 3051 for lamp controls the
position of the light source 3001 through the lamp
holding member 3017.

A timing generator 3052 generates a timing signal
20 (clock) on the basis of control of the controller 3039.
A bus 3053 connects the controller 3039 to the control
units and processing circuits. A data line 3054 inputs
image data from an output device or outputs it thereto.
A sync signal line 3055 inputs sync signals Hsync and
25 Vsync from an output device or outputs them thereto. A
communication line 3056 exchanges a command by a
predetermined protocol between the interfaces.

1 Operations of the respective parts will be
described below.

 The light source 3001 comprises a light source
such as a halogen lamp. Light emitted from the light
5 source 3001 illuminates the transmitting original 3007
such as a 35-mm photographic film held on the film
holder 3006 through the heat ray absorbing filter 3002
and the illumination light source 3003. The optical
path is switched by the movable mirror 3008 and an
10 image of the transmitting original 3007 is projected on
one of

 (1) a screen (not shown) through a projection
lens 3011 and mirrors 3012 and 3013, and

 (2) CCD line sensors 3022 to 3024 through the
15 mirror 3009, the photographing lens 3010, and a
tricolor separation prism 3021.

 In the mode (2), the CCD line sensors 3022 to 3024
are driven in synchronism with clocks from the timing
generator 3052. Output signals from the CCD line
20 sensors are input to the analog circuit 3025. The
analog circuit 3025 comprises an amplifier and an A/D
converter. A signal amplified by the amplifier is
converted into digital data by the A/D converter in
synchronism with an A/D conversion timing clock output
25 from the timing generator 3052.

 The dark signal levels of the R, G, and B digital
signals output from the analog circuit 3025 are

1 corrected by the dark processing circuit 3027. The R,
G, and B digital signals are corrected by the shading
correction circuit 3028 in the main scan direction. In
addition, a pixel shift in the main scan direction is
5 performed by the pixel shift correction circuit 3029.
For example, this correction is performed by shifting
the write timings of the FIFO (First-In First-Out).

The color conversion circuit 3030 performs color
correction of the color separation optical system 3021,
10 converts the R, G, and B signals into Y, M, and C
signals corresponding an output device, and converts
the R, G, and B signals into Y, I, and Q color signals.
The LUT 3031 performs LOG conversion of a linear
luminance signal and arbitrary gamma conversion.

15 The components 3032 to 3037 constitute an image
processing circuit for outputting an image of four
colors, Y, M, C, and Bk (black) used in a printer such
as a color laser copying machine. The minimum value
detecting circuit 3032, the masking circuit 3034, and
20 the LUT 3033 are combined to perform printer masking
and UCR (undercolor removal).

The density conversion circuit 3036 performs table
conversion of the respective density signals, and the
variable magnification processing circuit 3037 performs
25 variable magnification processing in the main scan
direction. The variably magnified Y', M', C', and Bk'
signals are sent to the color reader 1 through the

1 interface circuit 3038.

The interface circuit 3038 can output image data R (red), G (green), and B (blue) from the look-up table 3031 in addition to the Y', M', C', and Bk' signals.

5 This output signals are determined by equipment connected to the film scanner 34. When the film scanner 34 is connected to the color reader 34, the output signals are Y', M', C', and Bk' signals. When the film scanner 34 is connected to the image memory
10 apparatus 3, the data are output in the form of R, G, and B signals.

As shown in Fig. 46, there are two types of methods of setting a film in the film scanner 34 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 45.

15 The upper part of Fig. 46 shows a mount M1 in an auto changer. Films are loaded in the mount M1, and desired image samples are designated during initialization, thereby automatically accessing the desired samples.

20 The lower part of Fig. 46 shows an auto loader M2. A carrier feed mechanism and a positioning sensor for the carrier are arranged in the magazine.

<Description of Image Memory Apparatus 3>

A method of storing data from the color reader 1
25 to the image memory apparatus 3 and a method of storing data from the SV recording reproducing unit 31 as one of the input video units to the image memory

1 apparatus 3 in this embodiment will be described below.
A method of storing image information from the film
scanner 34 to the image memory apparatus 3 will also
be described below.

5 Image formation at the color printer 2 according
to an embodiment of the present invention upon read
access of image information from the image memory
apparatus 3 will be described below.

<Image Storage from Color Reader 1>

10 A read area at the color reader 1 is designated
with the digitizer.

The outer appearance of the digitizer 16 is shown
in Fig. 23.

A method of transferring image data from the color
15 reader 1 to the image memory apparatus 3 will be
described below. A mode setting surface 420 is used to
set an arbitrary area on a read original. A point pen
421 is used to designate coordinates of an area.

In order to transfer image data of an arbitrary
20 area on an original, an image registration mode is set
with the operation unit 20, and then a read position is
designated with the point pen 421. An operation of the
point pen 421 will be described below.

The read information is sent to the video
25 processing unit 12 through the communication line 505
in Fig. 1. The video processing unit 12 sends this
signal from the video interface 201 to the image memory

1 apparatus 3 through the CPU bus 508.

The process of sending information of the designated area of the original 999 to the image memory apparatus 3 will be described below.

5 Fig. 24 shows an address of information (A and B points) of an area designated with the point pen 421 of the digitizer 16.

The color reader 1 outputs the VCLK signal, the signal ITOP, and the $\overline{\text{EN}}$ signal together with the
10 image data 205 to the image memory apparatus 3 through the signal line 207. The timing chart of the output signal lines is shown in Fig. 26. A data flow shown in Fig. 3 occurs in the video interface 201.

As shown in Fig. 26, upon depression of a start
15 button on the operation unit 20, the stepping motor 14 is driven to cause the original scanning unit 11 to start scanning of the original. When the original scanning unit 11 reaches the leading end of the original, the ITOP signal goes to "1". The original
20 scanning unit 11 reached an area designated with the digitizer 16 and scans the designated area. During scanning of the designated area, the EN signal goes to "1". For this reason, read image information (DATA 205) is fetched while the $\overline{\text{EN}}$ signal is kept at "1".

25 As shown in Fig. 26, the image data transfer from the color reader 1 is performed as follows. The video interface 201 is controlled, as shown in Fig. 3, and

1 the signal ITOP, the control signal of the \overline{EN} signal,
and the signal VCLK are output as the signal 207 from
the video interface 201. The R data 205R, the G data
205G, and the B data 205B are sent to the image memory
5 apparatus 3 in synchronism with the signal 207.

The practical storage method of the image memory
apparatus 3 in accordance with the image data and the
control signals will be described with reference to
Figs. 27A to 27F.

10 A connector 4550 is connected to the video
interface 201 in the color reader 1 in Fig. 2 through a
cable. The R data 205R, the G data 205G, and the B
data 205B are supplied to a selector 4250 through
signals 9430R, 9430G, and 9430B. The signals VCLK, \overline{EN} ,
15 and ITOP sent from the video interface 201 are input to
the selector 4250 through a signal line 9450S. Prior
to reading of the original, area information designated
with the digitizer 16 is input to a reader controller
4270 (Fig. 27B) through a communication line 9460 and
20 is fetched to a CPU 4360 through a CPU bus 9610.

The R data 9430R, the G data 9430G, and the B data
9430B input to the selector 4250 through the connector
4550 are selected by the selector 4250 and output to
signal lines 9421R, 9421G, and 9421B. These signals
25 are then input to a filter circuit 9500.

Fig. 28A is a view for explaining the filter
circuit 9500 in detail.

1 The image signals 9421R, 9421G, and 9421B are
input to FIFO memories 4252R, 4252G, and 4252B,
respectively, and are controlled by a timing control
signal 9450 input from the system controller.

5 Outputs from the FIFO memories 4252R, 4252G, and
4252B are signals delayed from the image data 9421R,
9421G, and 9421B by one main scan line each and are
input to adders 4253R, 4253G, and 4253B through signal
lines 9422R, 9422G, and 9422B, respectively. The
10 adders 4253R, 4253G, and 4253B calculate average values
of every four pixels, i.e., two pixels in the main scan
direction and two pixels in the sub-scan direction, and
output them to signal lines 9423R, 9423G, and 9423B.

 Selectors 4254R, 4254G, and 4254B select the image
15 signals 9421R, 9421G, and 9421B, or the average signals
9423R, 9423G, and 9423B as signals 9420R, 9420G, and
9420B which are then input to the respective image
memories.

 The select signals for the selectors 4254R, 4254G,
20 and 4254B are controlled and programmed by the CPU 4360
(not shown).

 As described above, the filter circuit 9500
performs image averaging to prevent image degradation
caused by a moiré pattern when a dot image is read
25 from, e.g., the color reader 1.

 Figs. 28B and 28C are block diagrams showing
internal structures of the selector 4250. As shown in

1 Figs. 28B and 28C, an image signal from the color
 reader 1 or each video unit (to be described in detail
 later) such as a still video reproducing unit or the
 film scanner can be arbitrarily switched. A switching
 5 signal can be programmably controlled by the CPU
 through a decoder DC.

When image information is to be stored from, e.g.,
 the color reader 1 to the image memory apparatus 3,
 control signals SELECT-A and SELECT-D are set to be
 10 "0", and tristate buffers 4251R, 4251G, 4251B, 4251HS,
 4251VS, 4251CK, and 4251EN, the buffers 4252R, 4252G,
 and 4252B, and buffers 4252HS, 4252VS, 4252CK, and
 4252EN are enabled. Other tristate buffers are set in
 a high impedance state, so that the image signals
 15 9430R, 9430G, and 9430B and the control signal 9450S
 from the color reader 1 are coupled to the image
 signals 9421R, 9421G, and 9421B and the control signal
 9420S, respectively.

The image signals selected by the selector 4250
 20 pass through the filter circuit 9500 and stored in the
 corresponding memories under the control of a system
 controller 4210. This operation will be described in
 detail below.

The system controller 4210 transfers only
 25 effective areas of an image of the image data 9420R,
 9420G, and 9420B obtained through the selectors 4254R,
 4254G, and 4254B and the filter circuit 9500 shown in

1 Fig. 28A to FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB
shown in Fig. 27C. At this time, the system controller
4210 also performs trimming processing and variable
magnification processing.

5 The FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB
absorb clock shift amounts between the color reader 1
and the image memory apparatus 3.

 These operations of this embodiment will be
described with reference to circuit diagrams of
10 Figs. 27A to 29 and a timing chart of Fig. 30.

 Prior to data transfer from the selectors 4253R,
4253G, and 4253B shown in Fig. 28B to the FIFO memories
4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB through the filter circuit
9500, a main scan effective area of the area designated
15 with the digitizer 16 is written in comparators 4232
and 4233 shown in Fig. 29 through the CPU bus 9610.
Fig. 29 is a view showing arrangements of the system
controller 4210 and the FIFO memories in the memories A
to M.

20 A start of first address of the area designated
with the digitizer 16 in the main scan direction is set
in the comparator 4232, and a stop address is stored in
the comparator 4233.

 As for the sub-scan direction of the area
25 designated with the digitizer 16, a selector 4213 is
controlled to validate the CPU 9610 side. Data of "0"
is written in the effective area of the designated area

1 in a RAM 4212, and data of "1" is written in an
ineffective area.

Variable magnification processing in the main scan
direction is performed by setting a variable
5 magnification in a rate multiplier 4234 shown in
Fig. 29 through the CPU bus 9610. Variable
magnification processing in the sub-scan direction is
performed by writing data in the RAM 4212.

Fig. 30 is a timing chart of trimming processing.
10 As described above, when only the area designated with
the digitizer 16 is stored in a memory (trimming
processing), a trimming position in the main scan
direction is set in the comparators 4232 and 4233 shown
in Fig. 29, and a trimming position in the sub-scan
15 direction is set in the RAM 4212 by setting the
selector 4213 to the CPU 9610 side (e.g., the trimming
area is set to be 1000 to 3047 in the main scan
direction and 1000 to 5095 in the sub-scan direction).
More specifically, the CPU writes "1" or "0" in an area
20 of the RAM 4212 corresponding to an address which is
input through the selector and output from a counter
4214. In this case, the data of "1" inhibits read
access of the memories 4050R, 4050G, and 4050B, and the
data of "0" allows read access of these memories.

25 A trimming section signal 9100 in the main scan
direction is synchronous with a signal $\overline{\text{HSYNCIN}}$ 9542 and
a signal CLKIN 9456 to operate a counter 4230. When a

1 counter output 9103 reaches 1000, an output from the
 comparator 4232 becomes "1", and an output Q from a
 flip-flop 4235 goes to "1". Subsequently, when the
 counter output 9103 reaches 3047, an output from the
 5 comparator 4233 goes to "1", and the output from the
 flip-flop 4235 goes from "1" to "0". In the timing
 chart of Fig. 30, since equi-magnification processing
 is performed, an output from the rate multiplier 4234
 is set at "1". Data from address 1000 to address 3047
 10 of the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB in
 response to the trimming section signal 9100 are
 written in the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and
 4050AB.

A comparator 4231 outputs a signal 9107 delayed
 15 from the signal $\overline{\text{HSYNCIN}}$ 9452 by 1 pixels. Since the
 $\overline{\text{RSTW}}$ and $\overline{\text{RSTR}}$ inputs to the FIFO memories 4050AR,
 4050AG, and 4050AB have a phase difference, a
 difference between the periods of the signal CLKIN 9456
 and a signal CLK 9453 input to the FIFO memories
 20 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB can be absorbed.

Trimming in the sub-scanning direction is
 performed as follows. The counter 4214 side of the
 selector 4213 is effective, and a period signal 9104
 synchronized with a signal $\overline{\text{VSYNCIN}}$ 9455 and the signal
 25 $\overline{\text{HSYNCIN}}$ 9452 are output from the RAM 4212. The section
 signal 9104 is synchronized with the signal 9107 by a
 flip-flop 4211 and is input to the read enable

1 terminals of the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and
4050AB. That is, image data stored in the FIFO
memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB are output during
only the section of a trimming signal 9101 of level "0"
5 (n' - m').

The signal 9101 is input to a counter controller
9141 shown in Fig. 32, converted into a counter enable
signal, and also serves as a write enable signal for
memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B. As described
10 above, image data output from the FIFO memories 4050AR,
4050AG, and 4050AB are immediately written in the
memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B in accordance
with address signals output from a counter 4080A-0.

In the above description, only trimming processing
15 is exemplified. However, variable magnification
processing can be performed simultaneously with
trimming processing. Variable magnification processing
in the main scan direction is set through the CPU bus
9610, and variable magnification processing in the
20 sub-scan direction can be performed by writing data in
the RAM 4212.

Fig. 31 is a timing chart obtained when trimming
processing and variable magnification processing (50%)
are performed.

25 Fig. 31 shows an operation wherein image data from
the selectors 4254R, 4254G, and 4254B are reduced by
50%, and the reduced data are transferred to the FIFO

1 memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB.

A 50% reduction value is set in the rate multiplier 4234 shown in Fig. 29 through the CPU bus 9610. At this time, an output 9106 from the rate multiplier 9106 has a waveform in which "0" and "1" are repeated every pixel in the main scan direction, as shown in Fig. 31. An AND signal 9100 obtained by the signal 9106 and a period signal 9105 produced by the comparators 4232 and 4233 controls the write enable terminals of the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB, thereby performing image reduction.

A 50% reduction operation in the sub-scan direction is performed as follows. Data to be written in the RAM 4212 (i.e., the read enable signal to the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB) is set at "1" (read inhibition) within the image data effective area, and only 50%-reduced image data is transmitted to the image memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B. In the operation shown in Fig. 31, the read enable signal 9101 repeats states of level "1" and level "0" to perform 50% reduction.

The trimming and variable magnification operations in the main scan direction are performed by controlling the write enable signal for the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB, and the trimming and variable magnification operations in the sub-scan direction are performed by controlling the read enable signal for the

1 FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB.

Image data transfer from the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB to the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B is performed by the counter controller
5 9141A, the counter 4080A-0, and the control line signal 9101, all of which are shown in Fig. 27C.

The signal 9101 is an output from the comparator 4231 shown in Fig. 29 and is used as a read enable signal RE for the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and
10 4050RB, and a write enable signal for the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B shown in Fig. 32.

The counter controller 9141A shown in Fig. 27C is a circuit for controlling counters 4080A-0 to 4080A-3 for generating address signals to the memories 4060A-R,
15 4060A-G, and 4060A-B and has the following three functions in response to commands from the CPU:

1. CPU Read/Write Mode

Data at an arbitrary address can be referred to by the CPU.

- 20 2. Read Mode

Stored image data is read out in accordance with a control signal from the system controller, and a transferred print output appears at the color reader 1.

3. Write Mode

25 An image from the color reader 1 is stored in accordance with a control signal from the system controller.

1 In any function, the count start addresses of the
counters 4080A-0 to 4080A-3 can be arbitrarily set from
the CPU, thus realizing random access. A normal start
address is address 0.

5 The control line signal 9101 is a read enable
signal for the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB
and is also input to the counter controller 9141A to
control the counter. The control line signal 9101 also
serves as a write enable signal for the memories
10 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B.

 When the counter controller 9141A is set in the
write mode, the input control signal 9101 is used as a
counter enable signal for the counters 4080A-0 to
4080A-3. The counter controller can selectively use a
15 counter corresponding to a CPU command or can use all
the counters. A signal 9140A serves as a counter
select signal. When the control line signal 9101 is
set at "0", image data read out from the FIFO memories
4050R, 4050G, and 4050B are input to the memories
20 4060R, 4060G, and 4060B, respectively.

 In this case, for example, when the counter
4080A-0 is selected, the enable signal from the counter
4080A-0 is set at "0", and a signal 9120-0 counted up
in synchronism with the signal CLK 9453 is output from
25 the counter 4080A-0. The output signal is input to
terminals ADR 9110 of the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G,
and 4060A-B through a selector 4070.

1 At this time, the write enable signal \overline{WE} 9101 for
the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B is also set
at "0", so that image data 9090R, 9090G, and 9090B
input from the memories 4060R, 4060G, and 4060B are
5 stored.

 In this embodiment, since a memory capacity is 1
Mbyte for each color, upon 50% reduction of the image
data of the designated area in Fig. 24, the read image
data is converted into data having a maximum memory
10 capacity of the image memory apparatus 3, and the
converted data is stored therein.

 In the above embodiment, the CPU 4360 calculates
an effective area from information of an area of an A3
original designated with the digitizer 16, and the
15 corresponding data are set in the comparators 4231 to
4233, the rate multiplier 4234, and the RAM 4212, all
of which are shown in Fig. 29.

 In this embodiment, since the volume of image data
to be read is larger than the image memory capacity,
20 reduction processing is performed, and the converted
data, the volume of which falls within the memory
capacity, is stored in the image memory. However, when
the volume of image data to be stored is smaller than a
maximum image memory capacity, trimming data is stored
25 in the comparators 4232 and 4233 for controlling write
access of data of the area designated with the
digitizer 16 in the memory, and an equi-magnification

1 coefficient is set in the rate multiplier 4234. The
 write data for the RAM 4212 is set such that "0" is set
 for an effective image area, and "1" is set for other
 areas, thereby setting the equi-magnification mode.

5 In order to store a read image while an aspect
 ratio (a ratio of length to width) is kept maintained,
 the CPU 4360 calculates an effective pixel count x from
 area information sent from the digitizer 16, and then a
 value z is obtained from a maximum capacity y of the
 10 image storing memory as follows:

$$y/x \times 100 = z$$

As a result,

(1) if $z \geq 100$, then 100% is set in the rate
 multiplier 4234, and "0"s are set in the effective
 15 image area in the RAM 4212.

(2) if $z < 100$, then $z\%$ is set in the rate
 multiplier 4234 and the RAM 4212, and the image data is
 stored within the maximum memory capacity while the
 aspect ratio is kept unchanged.

20 Even in this case, data of "1" and "0" are
 appropriately written in the RAM 4212 in correspondence
 with the reduction factor "z". Details of such control
 are disclosed in Application No. 385,383 (July 26,
 1989) filed by the present inventors.

25 Under the above control, arbitrary magnification
 processing can be facilitated while the aspect ratio of
 the input image is kept unchanged under control by the

1 image memory apparatus 3, thereby effectively
realizing the read image. In addition, utilization
efficiency of the memory capacity can be maximized.

The above setting operations of the image storing
5 memories (i.e., the memories A, B, C, and D) and the
display (the memory M) shown in Fig. 27E can be
independently performed. The same image can be stored
in different memories such as the memories A, B, C, and
D and the memory M at different magnifications.

10 <Description of Memory E>

The memory E shown in Fig. 27A will be described
below. The internal structure of the memory E is shown
in Fig. 27D-1. The memory E is a binary image memory
(to be referred to as a bit map memory hereinafter),
15 and its operation is the same as that of the memory A
previously described.

Of the image data read from the color reader,
image data written in the bit map memory E is written
in a FIFO 4050E-R (Fig. 27D-1) in the memory E through
20 the selector 4250 and the filter 9500 in the same
manner as described above. In this case, write access
is controlled by the write enable signal 9100, as in
Fig. 29. In this embodiment, the R signal is
exemplified as an image signal. Any signal represented
25 by a luminance signal can be used. For example, a G
signal or a signal obtained by weighting R, G, and B at
a predetermined ratio and averaging the weighted

1 signals. Image data written in the FIFO 4050E-R is
read out in response to the control signal 9101 as
described above and is binarized by a binarization
circuit 4055-R. The binarized signals are sequentially
5 written in the memory. At this time, black corresponds
to "1", and white corresponds to "0". A predetermined
binarization threshold value is written in a register
4053 through the CPU bus. As shown in Fig. D-2, a
heart-like original A is prepared, and an area B as
10 indicated by the dotted line is designated. This area
is read in the bit map memory E, so that a binary image
represented by "0"s and "1"s shown in Fig. 27D-2 is
stored in the bit map memory.

A counter 4080E controls a read/write address of
15 the memory 4060E-R. A counter controller 9141E
controls a counting state of the counter 4080E. The
read/write position is controlled by the CPU by the
system controller 4210 in the same manner as described
with reference to Fig. 29. When the data are read out
20 in a direction indicated by an arrow, a non-rectangular
area signal F in Fig. 27D-2 is output to a signal line
4072 and is used as a select signal for a selector
4071. An 8-bit register 4074 connected to the CPU bus
is connected to one input terminal of the selector
25 4071, and a predetermined output density value is set.
The other input terminal of the selector 4071 receives
a fixed value, e.g., 80H. When the signal 4072 is set

1 at "1", the selector 4071 outputs the predetermined density value to an output 4172. As a result, the density value is output to the heart-like area.

5 The most significant bit (MSB) of the signal 4172 is output to an output 4173 and is used as a non-rectangular area signal (to be referred to as a BI signal hereinafter).

10 The signals 4171 and 4172 are output to (2E) in Fig. 27B and is input to the video interface 201 shown in Fig. 2 through the selector 4230.

The output from the bit map memory E shown in Fig. 27D-1 can be arbitrarily obtained by updating the density set in the register 4074 (Fig. 27D-1) for the binary image stored in the memory 4060E-R. When data
15 exceeding "80H" is written in the register 4074, a bit image appears on a signal line 4173.

<Image Storage from SV Recording Reproducing Unit 31>

20 In the system of this embodiment, a video image from the SV recording reproducing unit 31 shown in Fig. 1 is stored in the image memory apparatus 3 and output to the monitor TV 32 or the color printer 2. The image memory apparatus 3 also handles the input image.

25 Storage of a video image from the SV recording reproducing unit 31 to the image memory apparatus 3 will be described below.

Control of storing the video image from the SV

1 recording reproducing unit 31 to the image memory
apparatus 3 will be described with reference to block
diagrams of the image memory apparatus 3 in Figs. 27A
and 27B.

5 The video image from the SV recording reproducing
apparatus 31 is input in the form of an NTSC composite
signal 9000 through an analog interface 4500 and is
separated into R, G, and B signals 9015R, 9015G, 9015B,
and a composite SYNC signal 9015S by a decoder 4000.

10 The decoder 4000 decodes Y (luminance) and C
(chrominance) signals 9010 from an analog interface
4510 in the same manner as described above. Signals
9020R, 9020G, 9020B, and 9020S to a selector 4010 are
separate R, G, and B, and composite SYNC signals.

15 The selector 4010 is connected to the CPU bus 9610
and selection of signals 9030R to 9030S and the signals
9020R to 9020S can be programmably performed by the
CPU.

R, G, and B signals 9050R, 9050G, and 9050B
20 selected by the selector 4010 are converted into
digital signals by A/D converters 4020R, 4020G, and
4020B.

A composite SYNC signal 9050S selected by the
selector 4010 is input to a TBC/HV separation circuit
25 4030. The TBC/HV separation circuit 4030 separates the
composite SYNC signal 9050S into a clock signal 9060C,
a horizontal sync signal 9060H, a vertical sync signal

1 9060V, and an image enable signal 9060EN shown in
Fig. 28C. These signals are input to the selector
4250. The image enable signal EN 9060 is a signal
representing a given image area.

5 The selector 4250 selects and outputs an image
from an image source, e.g., an image from the color
reader 1, an image from various types of video units
(SV reproducing unit in this embodiment), or an image
from the film scanner 34. This operation will be
10 described in detail with reference to Figs. 28B and
28C.

When an image on the video unit side is to be
selected, the control signals SELECT-A and SELECT-B are
set to be "0", and only the tristate buffers 4253R,
15 4253G, 4253B, 4253HS, 4253VS, 4253CK, and 4253EN and
the buffers 4252R, 4252G, 4252B, 4252HS, 4252VS,
4252CK, and 4252EN are enabled. The signals SELECT-C,
SELECT-D, SELECT-E, and SELECT-F are set to be "1", and
other tristate buffers are set in a high impedance
20 state. Image signals 9051R, 9051G, and 9051B from the
video unit are coupled to the signals 9420R, 9420G,
9420B, and 9420S, respectively.

This operation can apply to an image data input
from another unit. In addition, this embodiment is
25 characterized in that a tristate buffer is used in the
selector 4250 to use a bidirectional communication line
connected to the color reader 1 or the film scanner 34.

1 Of the signals 9050 output from the TBC/HV
separation circuit 4030, the TVCLK 9060C signal is a
12.27-MHz clock signal, the $\overline{\text{TVHSYNC}}$ 9060H signal is a
signal having a pulse width of 63.5 μS , and the $\overline{\text{TVVSYNC}}$
5 9060V signal is a signal having a pulse width of 16.7
mS.

 In order to switch the selector 4250 so as to
input such a video image signal, switches 4254R, 4254G,
and 4254B of the filter 9500 are switched to the upper
10 side in Fig. 28 by the CPU. In this case, the video
signal is not almost filtered and is input to one of
the memories A, B, C, and D. At the time of reception
of an image from the reader, since an image having a
moiré pattern as in a dot image is present, the
15 switches 4254R, 4254G, and 4254B are switched to the
lower side to prevent formation of the moiré pattern.
The above operation will be described by referring back
to Fig. 27C.

 The FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB are
20 reset in response to the $\overline{\text{TVHSYNC}}$ 9060H signal and write
data 9060R, 9060G, and 9060B from address 0 in
synchronism with the TVCLK 9060C signal. Write access
of the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB is
performed when the $\overline{\text{WE}}$ signal 9100 output from the
25 system controller 4210 is kept enabled.

 Write access of the FIFO memories 4050AR, 4050AG,
and 4050AB by the $\overline{\text{WE}}$ signal 9100 will be described in

1 detail below.

The SV recording reproducing unit 31 in this embodiment complies with the NTSC standards. When a video image from the SV recording reproducing unit 31 is digitized, an image capacity is given as 640 pixels (H) x 480 pixels (V). The CPU 4360 in the image memory apparatus 3 writes a set value in the comparators 4232 and 4233 such that the number of pixels in the main scan direction is 640. The input to the selector 4213 is set to the CPU bus 9610 side, and "0"s having the number corresponding to the number of 480 pixels in the sub-scan direction are written in the RAM 4213.

100% data is set in the rate multiplier 4234 for setting a magnification in the main scan direction.

15 When image information from the SV recording reproducing unit 31 is to be stored in the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B, the system controller 4210 couples the signals $\overline{\text{TVVSYNC}}$ 9060V, $\overline{\text{TVHSYNC}}$ 9060H, and TVCLK 9060C output from the TBC/HV separation circuit 4030 to the signals $\overline{\text{VSYNCIN}}$ 9455, $\overline{\text{HSYNCIN}}$ 9452, and CLKIN 9456 shown in Fig. 29.

As described above, since the image control signal is set on the SV recording reproducing unit side, the output signals 9051R, 9051G, and 9051B as data of one scanning line of a video image from the A/D converters 4020R, 4020G, and 4020B are input to the filter circuit 9500, and the output signals 9420R, 9420G, and 9420B

1 from the filter circuit 9500 are stored as
 equi-magnification image data in the FIFO memories
 4050AR, 4050AG, and 4050AB, respectively.

<Read Operation of Image Memory Apparatus>

5 Read access of image data from the memories
 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B of the image memory
 apparatus 3 described above will be described below.

An input command for forming an image at the color
 printer 2 upon read access of the image output from
 10 these memories is input from the digitizer 16 shown in
 Fig. 23 or the operation unit 20.

When an area subjected to image formation is
 designated with the digitizer 16, as shown in Fig. 37,
 the color reader 1 sends designated position
 15 coordinates to the CPU 4360 in the image memory
 apparatus 3 through the control line 9460 connected to
 the connector 4550. These position coordinates are
 output as, e.g., 8-dot data.

The CPU 4360 programs an area generator 4210-2
 20 (identical to that shown in Fig. 13D) in the system
 controller 4210 shown in Fig. 27F to obtain a desired
 image output on the basis of the coordinate information
 sent to the area generator 4210-2. More specifically,
 data corresponding to the coordinate information are
 25 set in the RAMs 85A and 85B shown in Fig. 13D. Signals
 output from the area generator serve as control signals
 in units of areas, as shown in Fig. 27F.

1 When programming described above is completed, the
 image memory apparatus 3 waits for a command from the
 color reader 1. Upon depression of a copy start
 button, image formation is started.

5 When the start button is depressed, the color
 reader 1 sends a command to the CPU 4360 in the image
 memory apparatus 3 through the signal line 4550. Upon
 reception of this command, the CPU 4360 immediately
 switches the selector 4250. A setting operation for
 10 sending an image from the image memory apparatus 3 to
 the color reader 1 in Figs. 28B and 28C is as follows.
 The control signals SELECT-C, SELECT-E, and SELECT-F
 are set to be "0" to enable the corresponding gates,
 and other tristate buffers are kept in a high impedance
 15 state. The CPU 4360 sets the counter controller for a
 memory which stores a desired image in the read mode.

 Upon completion of the above setting operations,
 the CPU 4360 receives timing signals ITOP and BD from
 the color reader 1. The color reader 1 receives the
 20 image signals and the CLK image enable signal in
 synchronism with the above timing signals.

 An operation for forming an image in accordance
 with a paper size, and an operation for forming an
 image in an area designated with the digitizer will be
 25 described below.

<Image Forming Process Corresponding to Paper Size>

 In this operation, the color printer 2 has the two

1 cassettes 735 and 736 shown in Fig. 1, and sheets
having two sizes are respectively stored in the
cassettes 735 and 736. Assume that A4-size sheets are
stored in the upper cassette, and A3-size sheets are
5 stored in the lower cassette. The sheet to be used is
selected by an input at a liquid crystal touch panel in
the scanning or operation unit 20. Image formation of
a plurality of images on an A4-size sheets will be
exemplified.

10 Prior to image formation, read image data are
input from the color reader 1, the film scanner 34, or
the SV recording reproducing unit 31 to the image
memory apparatus 3 to store a total of 16 image data,
i.e., "image 0" to "image 15" in each of the image
15 memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B, as shown in
Fig. 33.

A start key is depressed at the operation unit.

The CPU 22 shown in Fig. 2 detects this key input
to set automatic image forming position for the A4-size
20 sheet. In order to form 16 images shown in Fig. 33,
image forming positions are set, e.g., as shown in
Fig. 34.

Details of image forming process described above
in this embodiment will be described with reference to
25 the block diagrams of Figs. 27A to 27E and a timing
chart in Fig. 35.

The ITOP signal 511 sent from the color printer 2

1 shown in Fig. 2 to the color reader 1 through the
 printer interface 56 is input to the video interface
 201 in the video processing unit 12 and is then sent to
 the image memory apparatus 3. The image memory
 5 apparatus 3 starts the image forming process in
 response to the ITOP signal 551. Each image sent to
 the image memory apparatus 3 is read out from the
 memories A, B, C, and D under the control of the system
 controller 4210 shown in Figs. 27A and 27B.

10 Control signals 9102-0 to 9102-3 output from the
 area generator (Fig. 27F) in the system controller 4210
 are input to the counter controller 9141 so as to serve
 as counter enable signals. The counter controller 9141
 enables a counter on the basis of the input control
 15 signals and controls the select signal 9140 for the
 selector 4070. At the same time, the counter
 controller 9141 outputs the read enable signal 9103,
 and this signal serves as a write enable signal for
 next FIFO memories 4141-0 to 4140-3..

20 This allows read access of the image data stored
 in the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B, and
 readout image signals 9160A-R, 9160A-G, and 9160A-B
 from the memories are sent to look-up tables (LUTs)
 4110R, 4110G, and 4110B shown in Fig. 27C, and LOG
 25 conversion is performed to match the images with the
 human spectral luminous efficiency. Output data
 9020A-R, 9020A-G, and 9020A-B output from these LUTs

1 are input to a masking/black extraction/UCR circuit
4120A. The masking/black extraction/UCR circuit 4120A
performs color correction of color image signals in the
image memory apparatus 3. In a black recording mode,
5 the circuit 4120A performs UCR/black extraction.

An image signal 9210 from the masking/black
extraction/UCR circuit 4120A is input to the FIFO
memories 4140-0 to 4140-3 by a selector 4130 shown in
Fig. 27B on the basis of a select signal 9230 output
10 from the area generator. As shown in Fig. 33, the
sequentially aligned images are simultaneously
processed by the FIFO memories 4140-0 to 4140-3.

Fig. 35 is a timing chart showing an image flow.

Signals 9320-0 to 9320-3 are used as enable
15 signals for enlargement·interpolation circuits, and a
select signal 9340 serves as a select signal for a
selector 4190 to select the enlargement·interpolation
circuits. These signals are output from the area
generator, and a maximum of four independent areas can
20 be enlarged.

For example, when an enlargement·interpolation
circuit 4150-0 is enabled in response to the enable
signal 9320-0, the enlargement·interpolation circuit
4150-0 outputs a read enable signal 9280-0 to the FIFO
25 memory 4140-0, receives image data from this FIFO
memory, and performs enlargement. In this embodiment,
linear interpolation is employed. When other

1 enlargement interpolation circuits are enabled, read
enable signals are output to the corresponding FIFO
memories to read out the data therefrom. A timing
chart of this operation is shown in Fig. 35.

5 At this time, the image data sequentially read out
from the memories are subjected to parallel processing.
Finally, the layout of the images is completed by the
selector 4190, and the parallel image data is then
converted into serial image data again. An image
10 signal 9330 converted into serial image data by the
selector 4190 is subjected to edge emphasis and
smoothing by an edge filter circuit 4180. The
processed image signal passes through an LUT 4200 and
is input to the selector 4230 through a signal line
15 9380.

The selector 4230 receives data (2E) from the bit
map memory and the image data from the memories. The
selection operation of the selector 4230 will be
described in detail later with reference to Fig. 41.

20 The image signal 9380 output from the selector
4230 is input as (5) to the selector 4250 and is sent
together with the video enable signal and the clock
generated by the area generator to the color reader 1.

When image formation of all "image 0" to "image 3"
25 is completed, "image 4" to "image 7", "image 8" to
"image 11", and "image 12" to "image 15" are
sequentially formed, thereby forming 16 images, i.e.,

1 "image 0" to "image 15" shown in Fig. 34.

According to this embodiment, as described above,
the 16 images are stored, and these images are laid
out, as shown in Fig. 34 and are printed out. However,
5 the number of images can be arbitrarily changed.

When an input image is an image input from the SV
recording reproducing apparatus 31, images from the SV
floppy disk can be continuously printed out, thus
functioning as index printing.

10 Similarly, the film scanner 34 and the auto
changer can be used to automatically and sequentially
store images to perform 24- or 36-frame printing, thus
performing index printing of film images.

<Image Formation by Layout at Arbitrary Positions>

15 The above description exemplifies a control
operation for developing images so as to be
automatically formed. However, the present invention
is not limited to the above operation. An arbitrary
image can be developed at an arbitrary position and can
20 be formed.

For this purpose, an operation for developing
"image 0" to "image 3" in Fig. 37 and forming them will
be described below.

Under the same control as in image input control
25 of the memories described above, four image data read
from the color reader 1, the film scanner 34, or the SV
recording reproducing unit 31 are stored in the image

1 memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B, as shown in
Fig: 36.

The point pen 421 is used to input a desired
developing position on a coordinate detection board
5 420. For example, a developing area is designated and
input, as shown in Fig. 37. In this case, the image
forming process will be described with reference to the
block diagrams in Figs. 27A to 27F and timing charts in
Figs. 38 and 39.

10 Fig. 38 is a timing chart of image formation on
the $\ell 1$ line, and Fig. 39 is a timing chart of image
formation on the $\ell 2$ line.

The ITOP signal 551 is output from the printer 2
as described above, and the system controller 4210
15 starts operation in synchronism with this signal.

In the image layout shown in Fig. 37A, "image 3"
is obtained by rotating through 90° an image input from
the color reader 1, the film scanner 34, or the SV
recording reproducing unit 31.

20 Image rotation can be performed as follows.
Images are transferred from the memories 4060A-R,
4060A-G, and 4060A-B to a work memory 4390 by a DMAC
(Direct Memory Access Controller) 4380. Known image
rotation is performed in the work memory 4390 under the
25 control of the CPU 4360, and the images are transferred
from the work memory 4390 to the memories 4060A-R,
4060A-G, and 4060A-B, thereby completing image

1 rotation.

Position data of each image laid out, designated,
and input with the digitizer 16 is sent to the image
memory apparatus 3 through the video processing unit 12
5 shown in Fig. 1 along the path described above.

The position data is fetched by the CPU 4360
through the signal line 9460. The CPU 4360 executes a
program for the area generator on the basis of the
position data, as previously described.

10 Upon reception of the developing position data for
each image, the system controller 4210 generates the
operation enable signals 9320-0 to 9320-3 for the
enlargement-interpolation circuits 4150-0 to 4150-3,
the counter enable signals 9102-0 to 9102-3, and
15 selector control signals, thereby obtaining desired
images.

In the layout of arbitrary positions in this
embodiment, for example, the counter 0 (4080-0) is
operated in correspondence with image 0, the counter 1
20 (4080-1) is operated in correspondence with image 1,
the counter 2 (4080-2) is operated in correspondence
with image 2, and the counter 3 (4080-3) is operated in
correspondence with image 3.

Image formation control on the 11 line shown in
25 Figs. 37A to 37G will be described with reference to
Fig. 38.

"Image 0" is read out from each of the image

1 memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B by the counter 0
 (4080-0) from address 0 to address 0.5M (i.e., storage
 area of "image 0" shown in Fig. 36). The outputs from
 the counters 4080-0 to 4080-3 are switched by the
 5 selector 4070 under the control of the counter
 controller 9141.

Similarly, "image 1" is read out from each memory
 by the counter 1 (4080-1) from address 0.5M to address
 1M (storage area of "image 1" shown in Fig. 36). The
 10 read timings are indicated by 9160A-R, 9160A-G, and
 9160A-B in Fig. 38.

Data of "image 0" and "image 1" are sent to the
 masking/black extraction/UCR circuit 4120A through the
 LUTs 4110A-R, 4110A-G, and 4110A-B and are converted
 15 into the surface sequential color signal 9210. This
 surface sequential color signal 9210 is converted into
 parallel data by the selector 4120 and the components
 in units of pixels are sent to the FIFO memories 4140-0
 and 4140-1. When the operation enable signals 9320-0
 20 and 9320-1 for the enlargement-interpolation circuits
 4150-0 and 4150-1 from the system controller 4210 are
 enabled, the enlargement-interpolation circuits 4150-0
 and 4150-1 enable the FIFO read signals 9280-0 and
 9280-1 and starts read operations.

25 The FIFO memories 4140-0 and 4140-1 starts
 transferring image data to the
 enlargement-interpolation circuits 4150-0 and 4150-1 in

1 response to the signals 9280-0 and 9280-1,
respectively. The output and interpolation operations
are performed by the enlargement-interpolation circuits
4150-0 and 4150-1 for the area designated with the
5 digitizer 16. The timings are indicated by 9300-0 and
9300-1 in Fig. 38.

"Image 0" and "image 1" after layout and
interpolation calculations are selected by the selector
4190 and are input to the LUT 4200 through the edge
10 filter circuit 4180. The subsequent operations up to
the operation of the connector 4550 are the same as
those described above, and a detailed description
thereof will be omitted.

An operation on the $\ell 2$ line in Fig. 37 will be
15 described with reference to the timing chart in
Fig. 39.

The signal flow from the image memories 4060A-R,
4060A-G, and 4060A-B to the enlargement-interpolation
circuits 4150-1 and 4150-2 is almost the same as that
20 described above.

However, on the $\ell 2$ line, "image 1" and "image 2"
are output, and the counter 1 (4080-1) and the counter
2 (4080-2), the FIFO memories 4140-1 and 4140-2, and
the enlargement-interpolation circuits 4150-1 and
25 4150-2 are operated. Control of these components is
performed by control signals output from the system
controller 4210.

1 As shown in Figs. 37A and 37B, "image 1" and
"image 2" overlap each other on the $\ell 2$ line. In an
overlapping portion, an image to be formed from "image
1" or "image 2" is determined by the control signal
5 9340 from the system controller 4210.

Detailed control of the above operation is the
same as control on the $\ell 1$ line.

A signal from the connector 4550 is connected to
the color reader 1 through a cable. For example, the
10 video interface 201 in the color reader 1 selectively
outputs the image signal 205R from the image memory
apparatus 3 to the printer interface 56 through the
signaling path shown in Fig. 4.

Transfer processing of image data from the image
15 memory apparatus 3 to the color printer 2 in image
formation of the above embodiment will be described in
detail with reference to a timing chart in Fig. 40.

As described above, upon depression of the start
button in the operation unit 20, the printer 2 is
20 started to feed a sheet. When the sheet reaches a
leading end of the image forming portion, the ITOP
signal 551 is output. This ITOP signal 551 is sent to
the image memory apparatus 3 through the color reader
1. The image memory apparatus 3 reads out image data
25 stored in the image memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and
4060A-B, and layout processing,
enlargement-interpolation processing and the like are

1 performed.

<Memory Enlargement Continuous Copying>

Image data sent from the host computer 33 is input through a GPIB 4580, temporarily developed in the work
5 memory 4390, written in the image memories A, B, C, and D, and read out by the means described above, thereby obtaining a print output. For example, if an image transferred to the image storing memory represents a memory area read out by the counter 0 (4080-0) of
10 Fig. 27C, as shown in Fig. 43, this image can be printed and output to the area of "image 0" in Fig. 37A.

When layout coordinate data, a magnification, and a print command are sent from the host computer, image
15 formation having arbitrary layout as described above can be performed under the control of the host computer.

Since the magnification can be arbitrarily set, an enlarged output image exceeding the size of the print
20 sheet can also be obtained.

Fig. 37G shows an enlarged print obtained by dividing a storage image into four print sheets (to be referred to as enlargement continuous copying hereinafter). This operation will be described in
25 detail below.

Fig. 37F illustrates an image stored in the memory area accessed by the counter 0 (4080-0) shown in

1 Fig. 27C.

As shown in Fig. 37F, the memory storage area can be arbitrarily divided in accordance with a magnification and a paper size. Upon reception of an enlargement continuous copying command from the host computer, the CPU calculates a memory division size in accordance with the paper size and the magnification and sets the calculated values in the system controller and the read counter 0.

10 In Fig. 37F, the division size is given as a in the H direction and b in the V direction. The division size is used to calculate a start read address of the counter.

For the sake of simplicity, the four divided memory areas correspond to four print outputs, respectively.

The image forming process is started by the ITOP signal 551 shown in Fig. 40, and one-line data is read out up to address a in response to a counter enable signal 9130-0 from the system controller 4210. The readout data is enlarged and sent to the color reader 1. When the operation of the read counter is completed, the start address of the next line is calculated. Read access is then repeated until the line b, thereby completing printing of one sheet. Start address 2 of the second sheet is calculated until the ITOP signal of the second sheet is input. Printing

1 is continuously performed up to the fourth sheet while
the start address is sequentially and repeatedly
updated. Finally, the printed images are connected to
obtain an enlarged image.

5 <Non-Rectangular Image Synthesis Using Memory E>

Non-rectangular image synthesis processing using
the bit map memory E will be described below.

For example, as shown in Fig. 37B, an output area
of "image 0" has a heart-like shape and is synthesized
10 on an original.

The size of an area of "image 0" to be output is
taken into consideration, and a heart-like binary image
is developed in the bit map memory E. In the same
manner as described above, the developing area of each
15 image is designated and input with the digitizer 16
from the color reader 1. At this time, a
non-rectangular area selection button in the operation
unit is depressed for only "image 0". The designated
position data of each image and processing data are
20 sent to the image memory apparatus 3 through the video
processing unit 12. The received data are fetched by
the CPU 4360 through the signal line 9460, and the
output timings of the images are programmed on the
basis of the fetched data, as previously described.

25 Upon reception of the ITOP signal from the color
reader, the image memory apparatus 3 starts image read
access, and image synthesization is actually performed

1 when the image data pass through the selector 4230
shown in Fig. 27B.

Fig. 41 is a schematic diagram showing an internal
structure of the selector 4230 shown in Fig. 27B. The
5 selector 4230 includes a register 1 3010, gates 3020
and 3030. When data set in the register 3010 is
controlled, 8-bit density data or the BI signal can be
programmably selected from the bit map memory by the
CPU. This selection can be performed in cooperation
10 with the gates 3020 and 3030. For example, when the
8-bit density data is selected, the image is
synthesized with the bit map by an OR gate 3040.

However, when the BI signal is selected, a select
signal is input to a selector 3050, and the density of
15 the data set in a register 3060 and the image data 9380
from the memory can be selected and output by the BI
signal.

When non-rectangular image synthesization is to be
performed, "0" is set in the register 2 3060. The
20 sequentially readout image data 9380 is cut out by the
selector 3050 using as the select signal the
non-rectangular area signal BI output from the bit map,
thereby performing non-rectangular image synthesis.

The BI signal can also be sent to the color reader
25 1, and the color reader 1 can perform processing using
the BI signal.

More specifically, the BI signal is used as the

1 signal 206 input to the video interface 201 shown in
Fig. 2, and the video interface 201 is used in the
state shown in Fig. 6, thereby performing image
synthesization on the reader side.

5 In this embodiment, image synthesization of a
color image read by the reader 1 and the image stored
in the image memory apparatus 3 can be synthesized in
real time.

An image is read out from the image memory
10 apparatus 3 in synchronism with the ITOP signal 551
from the color printer 2, as described above. At the
same time, the color reader 1 starts read access of the
reflecting original 999 with the full color sensors 6
in synchronism with the ITOP signal 551. The
15 processing in the color reader 1 is the same as
described above and a detailed description thereof will
be omitted.

Synthesization between image data from the image
memory apparatus 3 and image data from the color reader
20 1 will be described with reference to a timing chart in
Fig. 37C.

A portion except for "image 0" to "image 4" in
Fig. 37A represents a timing chart as a result of
synthesis of a signal from the image memory apparatus 3
25 and the reflecting original 999 on the $\ell 1$ line upon
synthesis of the reflecting original read by the reader
1.

1 Image data output from the color reader 1 and read
out in synchronism with the ITOP signal 551 serves as
the output signals 559R, 559G, and 559B from the black
correction/white correction circuit, which are output
5 on the $\phi 1$ line of Fig. 20 in synchronism with the
signal HSYNC. Only the designated portions of the
image data 205R, 205G, and 205B which are designated
with the digitizer 16 are read out from the image
memory apparatus 3. Two types of image data are input
10 to the video interface 101. A color original image is
output from the synthesis or synthesization circuit 115
for the area except for the area designated with the
digitizer 16. As for the area designated with the
digitizer 16, data from the image memory apparatus 3 is
15 output.

As a means for setting a non-rectangular area in
this embodiment, a mask pattern having a desired area
shape is prepared and is loaded in the reader, thereby
developing the pattern in the bit map memory.

20 In this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 27D-1, the
bit map memory is connected to the CPU bus, and the
mask pattern can be developed in the bit map memory
under the control of the CPU. As for standard mask
patterns (e.g., a star-like pattern, a rhombic pattern,
25 and hexagonal pattern) which are assumed to be
frequently used, programs for generating these patterns
are stored in the program ROM or font ROM 4070 of the

1 CPU. The programs are executed upon use of these
patterns, thereby automatically generating the mask
patterns.

With the above arrangement, a mask pattern is
5 produced and need not be loaded, so that a mask pattern
can be easily formed in the bit map memory, thereby
further facilitating the image synthesis shown in
Fig. 37B.

In this embodiment, the character font ROM 4070
10 shown in Fig. 27D-1 can be referred to by the CPU 4360
using code data transmitted from, e.g., the host
computer 33, and the character font can be developed in
the bit map memory E. In this manner, character fonts
can be freely written in the bit map memory. In
15 addition, the AND gate 3020 in Fig. 41 is enabled, the
AND gate 3030 is disabled, and the image data 9380 and
an image in the bit map memory are synthesized by the
OR gate 3040, thereby facilitating character synthesis
between the various storage image data.

20 For example, when a pattern generation program is
executed by the CPU 4360, a ruled line K and the like
can be written in the bit map. Such a ruled line and
the image data can be easily synthesized, as shown in
Fig. 37D. Other fixed patterns can be formatted as CPU
25 programs.

In addition, character data from the font ROM 4070
in the bit map memory can be synthesized with image

1 data to obtain an image with a message under the image,
as shown in Fig. 37E. These characters can be
developed by sending character codes from the host
computer, or may be set by reading them from the
5 reader.

<Description of Monitor TV Interface>

In the system of this embodiment, as shown in
Fig. 1, contents of the image memories in the image
memory apparatus can be output to the monitor TV 32.
10 It is also possible to output a video image from the SV
recording reproducing unit 31.

The above operations will be described in detail
below. Video image data stored in the image memories
4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B are read out by the DMAC
15 4380 and are transferred to and stored in display
memories 4060M-R, 4060M-G, and 4060M-B.

By controlling the control signal output from the
system controller 4210 to the respective memories, a
desired image can be stored in the image memory and at
20 the same time in the display memory M.

As shown in Fig. 27E illustrating the detailed
arrangement of the display memory M, video image data
stored in the display memories 4060M-R, 4060M-G, and
4060M-B are sent to D/A converters 4430R, 4430G, and
25 4430B through LUTs 4420R, 4420G, and 4420B and are
converted into analog R, G, and B signals 4590R, 4590G,
and 4590B in synchronism with a SYNC signal 4590S from

1 a display controller 4440. The converted signals are then output.

The display controller 4440 outputs a SYNC signal 9600 in synchronism with an output timing of these
5 analog signals. The analog R, G, and B signals 4590R, 4590G, and 4590B, and the SYNC signal 4590S are connected to the monitor 4, and the storage contents of the image memory apparatus 3 can be displayed.

In this embodiment, a control command is sent from
10 the host computer 33 shown in Fig. 1 to the image memory apparatus 3 through the connector 4580 and the GPIB controller 4310 shown in Fig. 27B, and the displayed image can be trimmed.

The CPU 4360 transfers effective area data from
15 the display memories 4410R, 4410G, and 4410B to the image memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B under the same control as described above, thereby performing trimming.

The CPU 4360 shown in Fig. 27B sets data in the
20 comparators 4232 and 4233 and the RAM 4212 of Fig. 29 in response to an area command from the host computer 33 in the same manner as described above, and image data is input from the color reader 1 or the SV recording reproducing unit 31 again, thereby storing
25 the trimmed image data in the memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B.

When a plurality of images are stored in the image

1 memories 4060A-R, 4060A-R, and 4060A-B, desired layout
of the images during its recording at the color printer
2 can be performed by using the monitor TV 32 and the
host computer 33.

5 A sheet size is displayed on the monitor TV 32,
and layout position data of each image is input from
the host computer 33 while the screen image is being
observed, thereby performing layout of the images
recorded at the color printer 2.

10 At this time, read control of the storage data
from the image memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B
to the color printer 2 and recording control at the
color printer 2 are the same as those described above,
and a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

15 <Description of Computer Interface>

The system of this embodiment has the host
computer 33 shown in Fig. 1 and is connected to the
image memory apparatus 3. Interfacing with the host
computer 33 will be described with reference to
20 Fig. 27B.

Interfacing with the host computer 33 is performed
by the GPIB controller 4310 connected to the connector
4580. The GPIB controller is connected to the CPU 4360
through the CPU bus 9610, and command exchange and
25 image data transfer between the GPIB controller and the
host computer 33 can be performed in accordance with a
predetermined protocol.

1 When image data is to be transferred from the host
 computer 33 through the GP-IB, image data is received
 by the GP-IB controller 4310 line by line. The
 received image data is temporarily stored in the work
 5 memory 4390. The stored data is sequentially
 transferred from the work memory to the memories A and
 B and the memories C and D and the monitor display
 memory M by DMA. The data is received by the GP-IB
 controller 4310, and image transfer is performed by
 10 repetition.

Fig. 42 is a block diagram showing a
 relationship between a work memory 4369, the image
 storing memories A to C, and the monitor display memory
 M.

15 Reference numerals of components in Fig. 42 are
 changed. An image size data to be transferred is sent
 from the host computer 33. More specifically, image
 size data is fetched from the host computer 33 to a CPU
 2403 through an input terminal 2401 and a GP-IB
 20 controller 2402. Image data are then read line by line
 and are temporarily stored in a work memory 2404. The
 image data stored in the work memory are sequentially
 transferred to an image storing memory 2406 and a
 display memory 2407 by a DRAM controller 2405 (to be
 25 referred to as a DMAC hereinafter) (for the sake of
 simplicity, R, G, and B components are represented by a
 single signal). The above operation will be described

1 in detail below. The image storing memory 2406 and the
display memory 2407 are assigned with addresses, as
shown in, e.g., Fig. 43, and store image data. The H
direction in Fig. 43 corresponds to a lower rank
5 address direction, and the V direction corresponds to
the upper rank address direction. For example, if a
point A is located at 100H in the H direction and 100H
in the V direction, the point A has address 100100H.
Similarly, the lower and upper rank addresses are
10 assigned to the display memory in the H and V
directions. In this case, sequentially input images
are stored in the image storing memory 2402 as
equi-magnification images and in the display memory
2407 as 3/4 reduced images.

15 An image size and a reduction factor from the host
computer are set in the DMAC, and the first or start
address and the reduced image size are set in DMAC
controllers 2408 and 2409. When the above setting
operations are completed, a command is sent by the CPU
20 to the DMAC 2405 to start image transfer.

The DMAC 2405 supplies address and \overline{RD} signals to
the work memory 2404 to read out image data. At this
time, the address value is sequentially incremented.
When read access of 1H is completed, the next line
25 image is received from the host computer and is stored
in the work memory. Signals $\overline{IOW1}$ and $\overline{IOW2}$ are supplied
from the DMAC to the DRAM controllers 2408 and 2409 to

1 sequentially write data. At this time, the DRAM
 controllers 2408 and 2409 count pulses of the $\overline{\text{IOW}}$
 signal and increment the set first address. When write
 access in the H direction is completed, the address in
 5 the V direction is incremented, and write access from
 the next H line is started.

During data transfer, the DMAC has the same
 function as the rate multiplier for the signal $\overline{\text{IOW}}$. By
 culling the signal $\overline{\text{IOW}}$, image reduction can be
 10 performed. For example, when 3/4 reduction is set,
 every four signals $\overline{\text{IOW}}$ are culled in the H direction,
 and the signal $\overline{\text{IOW}}$ is not output for one section per
 four lines in the V direction. As a result, the signal
 $\overline{\text{IOW}}$ is controlled to manage memory write access,
 15 thereby obtaining a reduced image.

Fig. 44 is a timing chart of the above operation.
 As shown in Fig. 44, a read address is input to the
 work memory 2404, and data is output onto a data bus by
 the $\overline{\text{RD}}$ signal. At the same time, a write address is
 20 input to a destination address, and data is written by
 the signal $\overline{\text{IOW}}$. In this case, when the signal $\overline{\text{IOW}}$ is
 culled, the write address is not incremented or write
 access is not performed.

<Description of Man-Machine Interface>





25 As described above, in the system (Fig. 1) of this
 embodiment, input operations are performed from the
 host computer 33 and the operation unit 20 in the color

1 reader 1.

The man-machine interface using the operation unit 20 will be described below.

Upon depression of an external device key (not
5 shown) of the operation unit 20 in the color reader 1,
a display A in Fig. 47 is displayed on the liquid
crystal touch panel.

Fig. 47 shows operations performed when image data
is stored from the color reader 1, the film scanner 34,
10 or the SV recording reproducing unit or reproducer 31
to the image memory apparatus 3.

Upon depression of an image register key in the
display A of Fig. 47, the liquid crystal touch panel is
displayed as indicated by C. An input source displayed
15 in an area surrounded by the broken line and indicated
by X in the display C is selected by the  and/or 
key. The kinds of input source are the color reader 1,
the film scanner 34, and the SV recording reproducer 31
and can be selected with the  and/or  key. This
20 selection procedures are shown in a part below the
display C.

Upon depression of an image number key in the
display C, the flow advances to the next step. A
display D indicates a case in which an image is already
25 stored in the designated image number. An image in the
display D can be obtained by touching an area Y in
Fig. 47. Displays E, G, and H are determined by

1 selection (i.e., selection with the ☐ and/or ☐ key)
of the input source in the display C. More
specifically, when the color reader is selected, the
display E is obtained. When the film scanner 34 is
5 selected, the display G is obtained. When the SV
recording reproducer 31 is selected, the display H is
obtained.

The image register for the color reader 1 is
selected, the display E in Fig. 47 is obtained. In
10 this state, a read area on the original 999 on the
platen glass 4 in the color reader 1 is designated with
the point pen 421 in the digitizer 16 shown in Fig. 23.
When this designation is completed, the display F is
displayed for confirmation. If the designated read
15 area is to be changed, the ☐ key is depressed to
restore the display E. In this state, a desired read
area can be designated again.

If the designated read area is O.K., the ☐ key
is depressed to obtain the display G. In this case, a
20 memory amount is then set.

A bar graph representing a memory amount in the
display G is changed by mounting memory boards (the
memories A to D in Fig. 27A) in the image memory
apparatus 3.

25 A maximum of four memory boards (memories A to D)
can be mounted in the image memory apparatus 3. That
is, a longest bar is displayed when four memory boards

1 are mounted in the image memory apparatus 3.

The bar graph in the display G sets a memory amount for image register in addition to a memory amount in the image memory apparatus 3. A register
5 memory amount is determined using the ☐+☐ and/or ☐-☐ key, and a register start key is depressed to cause the original scanning unit 11 (Fig. 1) to scan and read the original 999.

Image data from the original scanning unit 11 in
10 Fig. 1 is transmitted through the cable 501 and is processed by the video processing unit 12. The processed image data is output to the image memory apparatus 3 through the video interface 201. The image data stored in the image memory apparatus 3 is
15 displayed on the monitor TV 32. A method of storing image data in the memories (Fig. 27C) in the image memory apparatus 3 is the same as previously described, and a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

As described above, the memory amount can be
20 variably set in the display G. Even if images in a single area are stored, high-quality image storage can be achieved by increasing the memory amount. By decreasing the memory amount, a larger number of images can be input.

25 Image registration from the film scanner 34 is performed in the display G. A registration method is the same as in the color reader 1, and a detailed

1 description thereof will be omitted.

When image registration from the SV recording reproducer 31 is performed, the display H in Fig. 47 is obtained. In this display H, it is set prior to the
5 start of registration whether a turn direction registration is present, AGC (Auto Gain Control) is ON or OFF, a field or frame is used. After these items are set, the register start key is depressed to fetch image information from the SV recording reproducer 31
10 to the memories (Fig. 27C) in the image memory apparatus 3. A method of storing image information in the memories is the same as previously described, and a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

Fig. 48 is a view showing a method of performing
15 layout-printing from the memories in the image memory apparatus 3 to the color printer 2.

A display C in Fig. 48 is used to select three kinds of layout patterns.

The fixed layout pattern is used to perform
20 printing layout of the contents of the memories in the image memory apparatus 3 in accordance with a predetermined pattern.

Free layout is performed to print out the contents of the memories in the image memory apparatus 3 in an
25 area designated with the point pen 421 in the digitizer 16 shown in Fig. 23.

The contents of the memories in the image memory

1 apparatus 3 are written in the area designated with the
point pen 421 in the digitizer shown in Fig. 23, an
image of the original 999 on the platen glass 4 of the
color reader 1 is synthesized with the contents of the
5 memories, and the synthesis image is printed out.

When the fixed layout is selected, the number of
print images in the fixed layout is set in a display D
of Fig. 48. Image area names A to P are assigned to
the image areas of the fixed layout, and image numbers
10 corresponding to the areas (A - P) are set using
displays E and F in Fig. 48. For example, when 16
images are selected in the display D of Fig. 48, the
display E in Fig. 48 is obtained. When the area A in
the display E is selected, the display is changed to a
15 display F in Fig. 48. An image number of an image to
be formed within the designated area is set using
numeral keys in Fig. 48. This designation is repeated
to register a plurality of images. The number of
images to be registered is automatically determined in
20 accordance with the kind of fixed pattern selected in
the display D of Fig. 48. When these setting
operations are completed, the CPU in the color reader
stores in the image memory apparatus 3 the image
corresponding to a desired image selected in the
25 display F of SV recording reproducer if SV is selected,
i.e., in the display in accordance with the kind of
external device selected in the display B in Fig. 48.

1 A message appears to instruct an operator to input
an image number corresponding to a start key (not
shown) on the operation unit 20. Upon depression of
the switch having the designated number, a hard copy
5 having the fixed layout is output from the printer 2.
Sixteen images having the fixed layout on one sheet are
printed, as shown in Fig. 34.

Free layout printing in a display J of Fig. 48
will be described below. In free layout printing, each
10 area is designated with the point pen 421 of the
digitizer 16 shown in Fig. 23. At the same time, image
numbers in a display L in Fig. 48 are selected at the
ten-key pad.

When each area designation is completed, a start
15 key (not shown) in the operation unit 20 in Fig. 1 is
depressed, and the contents of the memories in the
image memory apparatus 3 are printed out in the areas
set in the displays J and K in Fig. 48.

Synthesis layout in a display G of Fig. 48 can be
20 set in the same manner as in free layout.

An image of a reflecting image is output except
for the designated area, and a color image is output
within the designated area.



Fig. 49 shows procedures of color balance when a
25 "monitor display" key is turned on in the display A of
Fig. 47, i.e., an operation for displaying an image on
the monitor TV 32 is performed and the "color balance"

1 key in the illustrated state is turned on, that is,
when image information in the image memory apparatus 3
is printed out at the color printer 2.

When the monitor display key in the display A in
5 Fig. 49 is depressed, a display C is obtained. In this
display, it is determined whether the image number in
the image memory apparatus 3 is selected and the
selected image is displayed on the monitor TV 32 or a
source display is performed. Since the details of this
10 display mode have been described, a description thereof
will be omitted.

The color balance key in the display A of Fig. 49
is depressed to obtain a display D. In this display,
an image number for setting a color balance is
15 selected. When the image number is selected, the
liquid crystal touch panel is changed to a display E.
That is, a bar graph having red, green, and blue bars
is displayed. When the ☐+ key adjacent to the red bar
is depressed, the red bar is shortened, i.e., the
20 distal end of the bar is moved to the left. In this
state, a red luminance signal is electrically amplified
to reduce a red component displayed on the monitor.
Characteristic curves of the look-up tables (LUTs)
4420R, 4420G, and 4420B in the monitor or display
25 memories in Fig. 27E are changed to change the color
balance on the monitor TV. At the same time,
characteristic curves in the look-up tables (LUTs)

1 4410A-R, 4410A-G, and 4410A-B shown in Fig. 27C are
also changed. That is, the CPU in the color reader 1
communicates with the CPU in the image memory apparatus
3, and then the LUTs are updated by the CPU in the
5 image memory apparatus 3. As described above, by
simultaneously changing the characteristic curves in
the two types of LUTs, an image displayed on the
monitor TV can be printed out from the color printer 2
with the same color balance as the image displayed on
10 the monitor TV.

Fig. 50 is displayed when the  key is turned on
in a display A of Fig. 47. A display B of Fig. 50
shows a state obtained when the  key is turned on.
That is, this operation is performed to display the
15 content of the SV disk which is reproduced by the SV
recording reproducer 31 and to print out it from the
color printer 2.

A display C in Fig. 50 shows procedures for
selecting an index display or index printing.

20 An SV disk can store 50 field images or 25 frame
images.

When a display start key in a display D of Fig. 50
is depressed, the first 25 field images stored in the
SV disk are displayed in field recording. When a
25 display start key in a display E of Fig. 50 is
depressed, the 25 remaining field images are displayed
on the monitor. In this case, the CPU in the image

1 storing apparatus 3 sets the SV recording reproducer in
a remote state.

In this case, the CPU in the color reader 1
generates a command for sequentially storing images of
5 a plurality tracks from the SV recording reproducer to
the memories of the CPU in the image memory apparatus
3. The CPU in the image memory apparatus 3 generates
the following command to the SV recording reproducer.
The first half of the 50 field images recorded in the
10 SV disk is sequentially stored in the memories in the
image memory apparatus 3. In this case, the image
memory apparatus 3 supplies only a head movement
command to the SV recording reproducer. More
specifically, prior to storage of the image signal in
15 the image memory apparatus 3, a reproduction head of
the SV recording reproducer accesses the outermost
track, and a video image from this track is stored in
memories in the image memory apparatus 3. The CPU in
the image memory apparatus 3 sends a command for moving
20 the reproducing head to a position inside the outermost
track by one track. The image memory apparatus 3
stores a video image from this track in the memories.
These operations are repeated to sequentially cause the
image memory apparatus 3 to store the image signals in
25 the memories. A multi-index image is formed in the
internal memories. In frame recording, the display
start key in the display D is depressed to display all

1 SV disks.

Displays F and G in Fig. 50 show procedures for printing out the contents of the above index at the color printer 2.

5 When setting operations on the display F are completed, the start key on the operation unit 20 is depressed, and the image memory apparatus 3 reads out 25 field images from the SV recording reproducer 31 and stores them in the memories. Index printing is then
10 performed at the color printer 2 through the color reader 1. Operations in the display G are the same as those in the display F, and a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

As described above, upon completion of the
15 operations in the displays F and G of Fig. 50, image registration and layout printing can be easily performed.

<Control by Host Computer>

The system of this embodiment includes the host
20 computer 33 shown in Fig. 1 and is connected to the image memory apparatus 3. Interfacing with the host computer 33 will be described with reference to Fig. 10.

Interfacing with the host computer 33 is performed
25 by the GP-IB controller 4310 connected to the connector 4580. The GP-IB controller 4310 is connected to the CPU 4360 through the CPU bus 9610 and can exchange

1 commands with the host computer 33 and can transfer
image data to the host computer 33.

The image data from the color reader 1 or the SV
recording reproducer 31 is sent to the host computer 33
5 by the GP-IB controller 4310 connected to the connector
4580 and is stored in the memory area in the host
computer 33, thereby performing enlargement/reduction
processing, cutting out of part of the image data, and
layout of a plurality of image data as in a
10 conventional system. In this case, in the conventional
system, however, it takes a long period of time to
transfer data from the color reader 1 or the SV
recording reproducer 31 to the host computer 33 even
through a general-purpose interface such as a GP-IB
15 interface since a data volume of a color image is
considerably large. In order to solve this problem,
input image data are not directly sent to the host
computer 33. Instead, a predetermined instruction is
sent from the host computer 33 to the GP-IB controller
20 in the image memory apparatus 3, the CPU 4360 decodes
this instruction and controls the input image data from
the color reader 1 or the SV recording reproducer 31,
and only a necessary image area is designated. Other
image portions are not stored in the memories, thereby
25 effectively using the memories. Therefore, all image
data need not be transferred to the host computer 33.

Even if the input image data is not stored in the

1 memory area in the host computer 33 in response to an
instruction from the host computer 33, the image memory
apparatus 3 can store a plurality of image data in the
image memories 4060A-R, 4060A-G, and 4060A-B. Even if
5 image processing such as layout of the images and
enlargement/reduction is not performed by the host
computer 33, the CPU 4360 in the image memory apparatus
3 performs processing of only the input image in
accordance with only a command from the host computer
10 33. Image transfer time between the host computer 33
and the image memory apparatus 3 can be shortened, and
therefore, the total processing time can be shortened.

In the processing described above, a method of
storing and processing the input/output images by the
15 image memory apparatus 3 in accordance with an
instruction from the computer 33 will be described in
detail.

The input/output image data stored in the image
memory apparatus 3 is entirely processed as an image
20 file in the image memory apparatus 3. For this reason,
the image registration memories A (4060A), B (4060B), C
(4060C), and D (4060D) serve as RAM disks. At this
time, the image files to be stored are controlled by an
image file management table 4361 whose file names are
25 controlled as keys (Fig. 51).

When the image files are registered and stored in
the image memory apparatus 3 serving as the RAM disk,

1 basic blocks obtained by dividing each of the
registration memories 7 A to 7 D are used as management
units for minimum image files.

The CPU 4360 can manage to combine some of these
5 basic blocks by the image file management table 4361
and to constitute one large image file. In this case,
data of image file names, image data sizes, and
arrangements of file protect and file management tables
are stored in the image file management table 4361 upon
10 their registration.

In the image memory apparatus 3, when an image is
generally input from the image reader 1, it is reduced
or set as an equi-magnification or reduced image, and
the resultant image is registered as an image file in
15 the image memory apparatus. For this reason, when an
image is registered in an enlarged size, this size is
close to the original size of the original image output
from the image reader 1, and the reduction factor can
be reduced. Therefore, when this registered image file
20 is output to the printer 2 or the like, its quality can
be improved.

An image file name used as a key by the CPU 4360
at the time of image input from an input unit or device
(e.g., the reader 1) or the computer 33 is assigned
25 with a file name having a format shown in Fig. 56 in
accordance with an instruction from the computer 33.
This file name is used to clarify image data management

1 between the input/output devices of the computer 33 and
the image memory apparatus 3. The host computer 33 can
assign an arbitrary image file to an image.

The image file name consists of eight characters
5 (ASCII code) constituting a name of an image file and
an extension representing a kind of image represented
by the image data.

The extension can distinguish types of images to
be processed from each other and can manage to register
10 an image in a suitable image type in the registration
memories 4060.

An image having an extension ".R" is RGB type
luminance image data, an image data having an extension
".C" is a CMYK type density image, and an image having
15 an extension ".P" is an image whose data can set 256
colors from 8-bit palette type 16.7 million colors. An
extension ".S" represents an image file having a
special meaning in a special file and having a special
structure in the image memory apparatus 3.

20 A coordinate system for processing an image in an
image memory apparatus has an origin as a reference, an
X direction representing the direction of width of a
sheet, and a Y direction representing the direction of
height (length) of the sheet (Fig. 52).

25 The image memory apparatus processes data from
each input device in the image memory apparatus
coordinate system and manages various types of image

1 data.

When an image is input from an analog input terminal (RGB, video) (4500, 4510, 4520R, 4520G, 4520B, and 4520S) and is registered in the registration
5 memories, the input image is registered as an image, as shown in Fig. 53. In this case, The input image is entered in a size of 600 pixels in the X direction (width) and 450 pixels in the Y direction (height).

When a coordinate system of the digitizer 16 is
10 observed from the image memory apparatus, it is shown in Fig. 54. The coordinate system of the image memory apparatus is identical with that of the digitizer. The origin and X and Y directions of the coordinate system of the image memory apparatus correspond to those of
15 the digitizer.

When a coordinate system of the reader 1 is observed from the image memory apparatus, it is shown in Fig. 55. The origin and the X and Y directions of the coordinate system of the image memory apparatus
20 correspond to those of the reader 1.

Data exchange through the GP-IP controller will be described below.

Types of data exchanged between the image memory apparatus 3 and the host computer 33 through the GP-IB
25 controller 4310 are classified as follows:

(1) Command (Instruction)

This is an instruction sent from the host computer

1 33 to the image memory apparatus 3.

(2) Parameters

They are various types of values attaching to commands.

5 (3) Data

a) Image data

This data is binary data of a color (monochromatic) image such as an RGB or CMYK image.

b) Extension data

10 This data is data transferred to obtain data set in the image memory apparatus 3 or update the set data.

(4) Response Data

This data represents ACK/NAK or a response (RET) with attached information, i.e., a response from the
15 image memory apparatus in response to a command.

The above four types of data are exchanged between the host computer 33 and the image memory apparatus 3 through the GP-IB controller 4310.

These four types of data will be described in
20 detail with reference to Fig. 57.

Image data exchanged between the image memory apparatus 3 and the input/output image reader 1, the analog inputs 4500, 4510, 4520R, 4520G, 4520B, 4520S, or the printer 2, and between the image memory
25 apparatus and the host computer are classified into four types:

(1) RGB data type

- 1 (2) CMYK data type
- (3) 8-bit palette data type
- (4) binary bit map data type

These image data are distinguished by extensions
5 of the image files. For example, when the extension
".R" representing the RGB image data is assigned to an
image file name attaching to a SCAN command on the host
computer 33, the CPU 4360 in the image memory apparatus
3 controls an input as RGB type luminance data input
10 and registers it as RGB type image data in the image
memory apparatus.

A format of RGB type image data is shown in
Figs. 60 and 61.

In the image memory apparatus, basic blocks of the
15 registration memories A to D (4060A to 4060D) are
constructed, as shown in Fig. 60. The basic blocks of
a B image (4060A-R), a G image (4060A-G), and a B image
(4060A-B) are combined for the memory A (4060A). The
construction of the image is determined by the number
20 of pixels (i.e., the number of dots) as a width in the
horizontal direction and a height in the vertical
direction.

In an RGB color image, each of R, G, and B pixels
has a depth of eight bits (one byte), and R, G, and B
25 components constitute three frames.

One pixel of the R frame can express 256 gray
scale levels (0 to 255), and a data structure of the R,

1 G, and B frames can express 16.7 ($\approx 256 \times 256 \times 256$) million colors.

Value "0" represents a lowest gray scale level, and value "255" represents a highest gray scale level.

5 The data are aligned in an order from the upper left position in the F frame, and such structures are aligned in an order of R, G, and B components:

	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 1	
	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 2	
10	.	
	.	
	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n	x 3 (R,G,B)
	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n+1	
	.	
15	.	
	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel m	

Image data transfer between the image memory apparatus 3 and the input/output device and between the image memory apparatus 3 and the computer 33 is performed by a transfer format shown in Fig. 61. That is, image data are transferred in accordance with a surface sequential scheme.

An image structure and its transfer format of CMYK type image data are shown in Figs. 62 and 63. C represents cyan; M, magenta; Y, yellow; and K, black. In this case, the basic blocks in the registration memories A to D (Fig. 27A) are arranged in an image, as

1 shown in Fig. 31, and the basic blocks are assigned to these arrangements, respectively.

Each pixel of C, M, Y, and K components in a CMYK color image has a depth of eight bits (one byte), and
 5 C, M, Y, and K components constitute four frames.

One pixel of the C frame can express 256 gray scale levels, and this can also apply to other components, i.e., M, Y, and K frames.

Level "0" represents a lowest gray scale level or
 10 density, and level "256" represents a highest gray scale level or density. A data structure is obtained by aligning data from the upper left position in the C frame, and the M, Y, and K components follow the C component.

15	[One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 1]	x 4	(C,M,Y,K)
		One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 2			
		.			
		.			
		One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n			
20		One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n+1			
		.			
		One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel m			

Figs. 64 and 65 show an 8-bit palette type image
 25 data structure and its transfer format.

The basic blocks of the registration memories A to D (Fig. 27A) are arranged, as shown in Fig. 64, and the

1 basic blocks are assigned to these arrangements.

The image has a depth of 8 bits (one byte) per pixel.

5 A data value of eight bits per pixel corresponds to a color index No. of a color palette table 4391, as shown in Fig. 66, and an image can be arbitrarily painted with a desired color by a user.

With the above arrangement, 256 colors per pixel can be expressed.

10 A relationship between the image data and the color palette is shown in Fig. 85.

The data are aligned in the following order from the upper left position:

15	One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 1 One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel 2 . . One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel n+1 . . One-byte (8-bit) data of pixel m
20	

Figs. 67 and 68 show a binary bit map type image data structure and its transfer format.

25 The binary bit map is registered using the register memory E (Fig. 27A).

This image data has an extension ".S" (i.e., a

1 special file) of the image file name. This image file name is "BITMAP.S". The image data is registered in the memory E (Fig. 27A) which allows registration of only the bit map type data.

5 Since the memory E (Fig. 27A) consists of only a basic block, a plurality of entries cannot be registered in it.

The binary bit type image data has a depth of one bit per pixel.

10 Each pixel can express binary values, i.e., "0" and "1". The value "0" represents white (not print), and the value "1" represents the maximum density (black).

In the data structure, data is set every eight
15 bits, i.e., eight pixels from the upper left position of the image. The length of the binary bit map type image data in the direction of width must be a multiple of eight. The length of the image data in the direction of height can be arbitrarily determined.

20 Since the size of the image file is set in units of pixels, the volume of data to be transferred is given as follows:

$$\text{Data Capacity (byte)} = \langle \text{width} \rangle / 8 \times \langle \text{height} \rangle$$

where

25 $\langle \text{width} \rangle$: the width of the image file

$\langle \text{height} \rangle$: the height of the image file

8 : this value is given since eight pixels

1 constitute one-byte data.

 A response data format in command transfer from the computer 33 to the image memory apparatus 3 will be described with reference to Fig. 69.

5 The response data except for the image data are basically classified as follows:

- (1) ACK }
- (2) NAK }
- (3) RET

10 Fig. 69 shows formats of the response data.

 As is apparent from Fig. 69, different response data are input in accordance with different kinds of commands.

 The response data ACK and NAK are paired, and one
15 of these data can be used as response data for most of the commands.

 The ACK type response data is an affirmative response to each command and represents that a command is normally transmitted to and decoded in the image
20 memory apparatus 3. This response data represents a 3-byte fixed value of the first byte as 2EH and remaining two bytes as 00H.

 The NAK type response data is a negative response to each command and represents a response generated
25 upon occurrence of any error. The first byte of this response data is 3DH, and the remaining two bytes represent an error code.

$$1 \quad (\text{Error Code}) = (\text{Upper Rank Byte}) \times (100 \text{ (HEX)}) \\ + (\text{Lower Rank Byte})$$

The RET type (response with attached information) response data represents a response in response to a command from the computer 33 and is sent from the image memory apparatus 3 while necessary information is attached thereto. The RET type response data is 8-byte data, and the first byte is a fixed value of a header (02H). First to seventh data of the response data respectively byte data, and contents vary depending on kinds of commands.

Commands are used to cause the computer 33 to control input/output of the image data to/from the image memory apparatus 3 and to perform image file management and are listed as shown in Fig. 70.

The commands are mainly classified into a command which can provide an instruction by itself and a command which requires a parameter following this command.

20 Fig. 58 shows a format of a command-parameter structure.

Since a command and a parameter are sent to the image memory apparatus 3 to the GP-IB controller 4310 as a character train, a parameter value, if any, must be converted into a decimal character train. The parameter may include a character train representing an image file name.

1 Flows of the image data instructed by these
 commands between the computer 33, the image memory
 apparatus 3, the input units 1 and 31, and the output
 units 2 and 32 are shown in Fig. 59.

5 The commands from the computer 33 to the image
 memory apparatus 3 are classified into the following
 seven types of commands (Figs. 70 to 72).

(1) Initializing Command:

Various initializing operations are performed.

10 (2) Input Output Sel. Command:

The input and output units are selected.

(3) Input Output Mode Set Command:

The input and output conditions of images are set.

(4) Input Output Exec. Command:

15 The input and output operations of images are
 executed.

(5) File Operation Command:

Operations associated with image files are
 performed.

20 (6) Color Set command:

Conditions associated with colors are set.

(7) Other Commands

Others

The respective commands will be described below.

25 The initializing commands will be described with
 reference to Fig. 73.

An INIT command is a command for setting

1 initializing data for the image memory apparatus 3.

 An INITBIT command is a command for clearing an image of a binary bit map special file "BITMAP.S".

 An INITPALET command is a command for initializing
5 a palette table in the image memory apparatus 3.

 The input output sel. commands will be described with reference to Fig. 74.

 An SSEL command is used to select an input system such as a color reader 1, or the analog input 4500,
10 4510, 4520R, 4520G, 4520B, and 4520S. By this command, the CPU 4360 causes the selector 4250 to select an analog input system designated by using no parameters, and to cause the selector 4250 to select a reader 1 input through the selector 4010.

15 A DSEL command is a command for setting an image data output from the color printer 2 to the image memory apparatus 3.

 The input output status set commands will be described with reference to Fig. 75.

20 A DAREA command is a command for setting an upper left coordinate position (sx,sy) and an output size (width x height) when an image is output from the image memory apparatus 3 to the printer. At this time, the unit is set in type, and kinds of type include mm,
25 inch, and dot.

 An SAREA command is a command for setting an input

1 area from the color reader 1 as in the DAREA command.
The input and output ranges designated by the
SAREA/DAREA command are set by the system controller
4210.

5 A DMODE command (for an area designated by the
DAREA command) is a command for setting a variable
magnification in the enlargement-interpolation circuits
4150-0 to 4150-3 when data is to be output by this
command.

10 An SMODE command is a command for causing the
system controller 4210 to control a read variable
magnification when data is input to an area designated
by the SAREA command.

An ASMODE command is a command for causing the
15 system controller 4210 and the counter controller 9141
to determine whether an image input from an analog
input terminal is input as a field or frame signal
under the control of the CPU 4360.

The field and frame signals are known in the field
20 of television technology, and a detailed description
thereof will be omitted.

The Input output exec. commands will be described
with reference to Fig. 76.

A COPY command is a command for reading an image
25 from a reflecting original by the reader 1 and directly
outputting the read image to the printer 2 without
being registered as an image file in the image memory

1 apparatus 3. In this case, the number of copies at the
printer 2 can be designated by a parameter indicated by
<count>.

5 A SCAN command is a command for causing the CPU
4360 to fetch image data from an input unit designated
by the SSEL command, load the image data in a (width x
height) pixel size as an image type designated by the
extension by using an image file name designated by a
parameter <filename>, and store the read image in the
10 image memory 4060.

In this case, the CPU 4360 sets data of an image
file name, an image type, an image size, and a specific
image memory in the image file management table 4361
shown in Fig. 51.

15 A PRINT command is a command for designating image
file data already registered in the image memory
apparatus 3 with the parameter <filename>, unlike the
SCAN command. The CPU 4360 outputs data from the image
memory 4060 through the video interface 201 by using
20 data stored in the image file management table 4361.
At this time, the image is repeatedly printed a number
of times represented by the parameter represented by
<count>.

25 An MPRINT command is a command for virtually
outputting image file data designated by the parameter
<filename> stored in the image memory apparatus 3.
When a plurality of images are to be laid out and

1 synthesized, a plurality of image files are
sequentially designated by this command, and the CPU
4360 stores the image file names designated by the
MPRINT command. These stored images are triggered in
5 response to the PRINT or COPY command, and image files
stored by the MPRINT in the memory 4370 are laid out
and synthesized by the CPU 4360, and the synthesis
image is output to the printer 2.

A PRPRINT command is a command for registering
10 image data (width x height (size)) sent from the
computer 33 through the GP-IB interface in the image
memory 4060 with a file name designated by the
parameter <filename> under the control of the CPU 4360.
By the PRPRINT command, the registered image data is
15 then directly output to the printer in the same manner
as in the PRINT command.

A DRSCAN command is a command for registering
image data from the color reader 1 in the designated
size (width x height) read image memory 4060 as a file
20 name designated by the parameter <filename> and for
setting attached data in the image file management
table as in the SCAN command. In addition, the data is
transferred to the computer 33 through the GP-IB
interface 4580.

25 The file operation commands will be described with
reference to Fig. 77.

A DELE command is a command for deleting from the

1 image file management table 4360 an image file
designated with the parameter <filename> in an image
file already registered in the image memory apparatus
3. In this case, an empty capacity of the image memory
5 after deletion from the management table 4361 is
determined by the CPU 4360, and data having the same
capacity as the empty capacity is set as RET type
response data, thereby sending 8-byte RET response data
to the computer 33 through the GP-IB interface.

10 A DKCHECK command is a command for causing the CPU
4360 to determine from the image file management table
4361 whether an image file type (CMYK, RGB, 8-bit
palette, or binary bit map) image designated by the
type parameter can be stored in the (width x height)
15 image size in the image memory in the image memory
apparatus 3. In addition, the CPU 4360 determines
whether the RET type response data can be stored.
After this response data is stored, the remaining
capacity data as response data is sent to the
20 transmission source of the DKCHECK command, e.g., the
computer 33 through the GP-IB interface.

The display G in Fig. 47 can be obtained by the
above command or specific code.

An FNCHECK command is a command for checking
25 whether the image file designated by the parameter
<filename> is present in the image file management
table 4361, setting the RET response data representing

1 the presence/absence, and sending it to the computer
33.

An FNLIST command is a command for transmitting
the present content of the image file management table
5 to the computer.

An REN command is a command for changing a name of
an image file set in the image file management table.
More specifically, this command is to change the image
file name <Sfilename> before the change to the image
10 file name <Dfilename> after the change.

Image data input and output commands included in
the file operation commands will be described with
reference to Fig. 78.

A LOAD command is a command for transferring the
15 image file data designated by the parameter <filename>
in the commands registered in the image memory
apparatus from the image memory 4060 to the computer 33
through the GP-IB interface.

A SAVE command has the function opposite to the
20 LOAD command. The data having the (width x height)
image size in the computer is registered in the image
memory apparatus 3 with the file name represented by
the <filename> parameter. The CPU 4360 sets the file
name, the image type, and the image size in the image
25 file management table 4361, and the image data sent
from the computer is set in an empty area of the image
memory 4060.

1 A PUT command can set image data sent from the
computer with respect to the image file data designated
by the parameter <filename> already registered in the
image memory apparatus 23 within the range of the
5 (width x height) size from the upper left coordinates
(sx,sy).

A GET command can cut out the image data of the
image file having the parameter <filename> within the
(width x height) image range from the upper left
10 coordinates (sx,sy) and for transferring the cut image
to the computer 33, unlike the PUT command.

Other commands are shown in Fig. 80.

A MONITOR command causes the display controller
4440 to supply the analog output 4590R, 4590G, 4590B,
15 and 4590S data to the analog inputs designated by the
SSEL command corresponding to the <type> command and to
display the through data. Note that type variables
are, e.g., "0" (through display setting) and "1"
(monitor mute setting). In addition, the MONITOR
20 command has lower priority than other commands. The
through display setting can be canceled by the DSCAN
and SCAN commands.

A PPRREQ command is a command for supplying paper
size information currently set in the color printer 2
25 to the control unit 13 through the video interface 201
and sending sheet discrimination data to the computer
under the control of the CPU 4360.

1 A PPRSEL command is a command for selecting a
specific one of the plurality of sheet cassettes upon
designation with the <no> parameter and supplying the
selected one to the control unit 13. This command is
5 output to the color printer 2 through the image memory
apparatus 3.

 A SENSE command is a command for causing the CPU
4360 to communicate with and receive data from the
control unit 13 about the status levels between the
10 image memory apparatus 3, the color reader 1, and the
color printer 2, and for transmitting the resultant
data to the computer.

 The command transmission sequence from the
computer 33 to the image memory apparatus 3 will be
15 described below.

 The commands serving as basic input and output
commands for the images are mainly classified as
follows:

- (i) Input Output Sel. Commands
- 20 SSEL and DSEL
- (ii) Input Output Status Set Commands
- SMODE, SAREA, DMODE, DAREA, RPMODE, and ASMODE
- (iii) Input Output Exec. Commands
- SCAN, DRSCAN, PRINT, MPRINT, and DRPRINT

25 As shown in Fig. 82, the command transmission
sequence for the input/output of the image data has a
basic sequence.

1 The input and output units are selected by using
input output sel. commands. In response to these
commands, the CPU 4360 in the image memory apparatus 3
analyzes these commands and sends back the ACK/NAK
5 response data to the computer 33.

 An input output status set command is sent from
the computer 33 to the image memory apparatus 3, and
its result, i.e., the ACK/NAK response is sent back
from the image memory apparatus 3 to the computer 33 in
10 the same manner as described above.

 The input output status set command is invalidated
when the input output exec. command is executed, and
the default state is set. For this reason, when the
input output status set command is not executed but the
15 input output exec. command is executed, the input
output status setting is given by the default values.
At the time of input output execution, when a specific
input output state is to be set, the input output
status set commands are executed every input output
20 execution (i.e., every basic type).

 The input output exec. command for performing the
input output operation of the image data is actually
transmitted, and the CPU 4360 sends back the RET type
response data to this command. If an affirmative (ACK)
25 response is sent back, the actual image data
input/output operation is performed between the image
memory apparatus 3 and the image reader 1, the SV

1 recording reproducer 31, the printer 2, or the monitor
TV 32.

This input/output operations are the same as those
described in the above embodiment, and a detailed
5 description thereof will be omitted.

The CPU 4360 checks attributes of an image file in
response to the image file registration command from
the computer 33, the empty capacity of the files
(memories A to D) (Fig. 27A), and the like by using the
10 image file management table 4361 in advance. The check
results are sent back from the CPU 4360 to the computer
33.

The precheck commands for the image files are
FNCHECK and DKCHECK commands.

15 The sequences for checking the image files are
shown in Figs. 82 and 83. Data representing the
presence of the designated image file and file
attributes are sent as RET type response data to the
computer 33. In addition, data including the remaining
20 capacity of each image file and data representing
whether the desired image file size can be assured are
sent back as RET type response data from the image
memory apparatus 3 to the computer 33.

The basic type of the file check is included in
25 the basic type of each input output command described
above. It is possible to check the above items of the
image files in advance prior to the actual input/output

1 operations.

Synthesis of image files will be described below.

In order to synthesize a plurality of images registered as image files in the memories 4060 in the image memory apparatus 3 and to output a synthesis
5 output image, the MPRINT command is sent from the computer 33 to the image memory apparatus 3.

The MPRINT command is used to designate an image file name registered in the image memory apparatus 3 by
10 using the MPRINT parameter. The CPU 4360 analyzes a command train of the MPRINT command and temporarily registers a file name in the memory 4370.

The MPRINT command trains, the number of which corresponds to a plurality of layout pattern images,
15 are sequentially transmitted from the computer 33, and the designated file names are temporarily registered in the RAM. When the last image for the plurality of layout pattern images is input, the computer 1 sends the PRINT command train to the image memory apparatus
20 3. When the CPU 4360 analyzes this PRINT command train, the CPU 4360 transfers the designated image data from the image memories, i.e., the image file management table 4361, to the color printer in an FIFO order of image files corresponding to the MPRINT
25 commands sequentially sent from the computer. A synthesis output is the same as that as previously described.

1 The transmission order of the MPRINT commands from
the computer and the priority order of image synthesis
by the PRINT commands are given such that previously
designated images have higher priority, as shown in
5 Fig. 88.

 In order to synthesize a special file stored in
the binary bit map memory (memory in Fig. 27A) and an
image file registered in the image memory apparatus 3,
the special file name "BITMAP.S" is set in the
10 plurality of image files designated by the MPRINT and
PRINT commands on the computer side, and the resultant
command is transmitted to the image memory apparatus 3.
The CPU 4360 synthesizes a plurality of image files and
performs synthesis of the binary bit map data. In this
15 embodiment, in the binary bit map image, a dot of "1"
basically represents "black", and a "0" portion is
switched such that other image files have priority over
it, as shown in Fig. 89.

 Since the above switching operation is performed
20 by using the video interface 201 in the reader 1, the
arrangement of the image memory apparatus can be
simplified.

 As an image synthesis function, it is possible to
synthesize the image file, the special file "BITMAP.S"
25 of the binary bit map, and the reflecting original on
the reader 1, and the resultant synthesis output can be
obtained in the same manner as described above.

1 The above operations by the commands from the
computer can be executed by the MPRINT and COPY
commands.

 The plurality of image files are designated by the
5 MPRINT command, and the COPY command is finally
transmitted as a trigger command. The CPU 4360 sends
back an instruction for a copying operation in the CPU
in the color reader. The image file and the reflecting
original in the reader are synthesized by the MPRINT
10 command, and the resultant image can be output.

 In this case, when the "BITMAP.S" image file is
designated by the MPRINT command, synthesis with the
binary bit map can also be performed.

 In this embodiment, the lowest priority is
15 automatically set by the COPY command for the
reflecting original set in the reader 1, and the image
on the reflecting original can be a background image.

 The command transmission order of the computer and
the output results at the printer are shown in Fig. 90.

20 As shown in Fig. 79, color adjustment functions
are a color palette function, a color balance function,
a gamma correction function, and bit color function
which respectively correspond to computer commands,
i.e., the PALETTE command, the BALANCE command, the
25, GAMMA command, and the BITCOLOR command.

 The color palette function is used to set a color
of an 8-bit palette type image and to color the binary

1 bit map image data. For this purpose, color data is
set in a palette number in the color palette. More
specifically, 256 color data can be set, and 8-bit R,
G, and B data can be set.

5 The color data set by the color palette 4362 in
the image memory apparatus 3 are set to be equal to
the color palette set in the host computer. Therefore,
the image colors output at the color printer 1 can be
the same as those in the host computer 33 through the
10 image memory apparatus 3.

The color palette table in the image memory
apparatus 3 can be set in units of image files
registered in the image memory apparatus 3 by the
PALETTE command. For this reason, when an image file
15 of an 8-bit palette type having an extension of ".P" is
output by the MPRINT command, the PALETTE command is
set from the computer and sets 768-byte ($= 256 \times 3$) RGB
palette table data in the palette table in the image
memory apparatus 3 through the GP-IB interface 4580, as
20 shown in Fig. 91. When the PRINT/MPRINT command is
executed, the present R, G, and B components set in the
palette table 4362 are respectively set in the LUTs
4110A-R, 4110A-G, and 4110A-B. Operations for
converting luminance data into density data are
25 performed in the respective tables.

At this time, the palette type image file data
designated by the PRINT/MPRINT command are converted

1 from the 8-bit palette luminance data into density data
through the LUTs 4110A-R, 4110A-G, and 4110A-B which
store the palette tables. The converted density data
are then sequentially output to an output system and
5 are printed at the color printer.

The 8-bit palette type image is set in the work
memory 4360 line by line when they are sent from the
computer through the GP-IB interface. The same data
are set in the register memories 4060-R, 4060-G, and
10 4060-B by DMA. These operations are repeated.

A maximum number of 8-bit palette tables which can
be set by the PALETTE commands is 16. These tables can
be set for 8-bit palette type image data at the time of
synthesis using a plurality of layout images.

15 Before the plurality of 8-bit palette type images
are virtually output by the MPRINT command, their color
palette data (768 bytes) are temporarily stored in the
memory 4370 in the image memory apparatus 3 by the
PALETTE command.

20 The above operations are repeated for the
plurality of 8-bit palette images to be laid out and
synthesized. When the last image is output, an actual
output is obtained by the PRINT command.

When palette tables of 8-bit palette images
25 currently formed by the MPRINT command are sequentially
synthesized and output, the image memory apparatus 3 is
sets these palette tables in the output color palette

1 table 4362 by the PRINT command. A plurality of images
can be then synthesized and the synthesis image is
output to the printer 2 in the same manner as described
above.

5 The RGB and CMYK type color balance modes can be
distinguished by the type parameter and can be set.
This setting can be performed by using the BALANCE
command.

 In RGB color balance setting, luminance gradients
10 are set by $\pm 50\%$ values of the parameters C2, C2, and C3
of the BALANCE command in the LUTs 4110A-R, 4110A-G,
and 4110A-B, thereby converting the luminance data into
density data.

 In CMYK color balance setting, density gradients
15 can be set by $\pm 50\%$ values of the parameters C1, C2, C3,
and C4 of the BALANCE command in the LUTs 4200.

 The image data files can be converted by the LUTs
to change image quality ranging from a low luminance to
a high luminance or from a low density to a high
20 density.

 The GAMMA command has the following function. The
LUT data already registered in the memory 4370 are set
in the LUTs 4110A-R, 4110A-G, and 4110A-B and
conversion from luminance data to density data is
25 performed so as to obtain CRT color reproduction
quality of RGB type image file data (its gamma
correction value is $\gamma = 0.45$ in consideration of CRT

1 light-emitting characteristics) by the type parameter.
Therefore, the RGB image data having the CRT-corrected
(i.e., $\gamma = 0.45$) value can be color-reproduced and
output.

5 The BITCOLOR command has the following function.
When a binary bit map output "BITMAP.S" is sent to the
color printer 2, the color having an index No. of the
color palette 4362 designated by the index parameter
within the range of the (width x height) size using the
10 upper left coordinates (sx, sy) in the binary bit map
memory (special file "BITMAP.S"). This operation can
be performed by the command described above. The CPU
4360 can set a plurality of sx, sy, width, height, and
index parameters by the BITCOLOR command in the memory
15 4370. In practice, when a file name "BITMAP.S" is
designated in the filename by the MPRINT or PRINT
command, the CPU 4360 transmits the sx, sy, width, and
height parameters from the image memory apparatus 3 and
the RGB 3-byte color data from the color palette table
20 4362 corresponding to the index No. (index parameter)
of the color palette to the CPU 22 in the control unit
13 in the color reader 1 or the color printer 2 (this
operation is repeated when a plurality of areas are
designated by the BITCOLOR command). The control unit
25 13 sets these parameters in the programmable synthesis
circuit 115. Therefore, an image having a designated
area colored with a designated color can be output at

1 the color printer when a binary bit map color print is required.

As described above, after the area and color are designated by the control unit 12, the CPU 4360 in the
5 image memory apparatus 3 can output color binary bit map data (memory E in Fig. 27A) of "BITMAP.S" defined by the PRINT or MPRINT command through the video interface in accordance with the commands from the computer.

10 Each bit of "1" in the binary bit map image is colored.

The color reader/color printer and the image memory apparatus 3 can be set by a remote function in a state wherein they can be controlled by the host
15 computer.

A command for remote-controlling the color reader/color printer and the image memory apparatus 3 from the computer is a REMOTE command. This command can set the following four status levels (Fig. 92).

20 In the system remote status, the color reader/color printer and the image memory apparatus 3 can be controlled by the command from the computer 33.

In addition, only the image memory apparatus 3 can be controlled by the command from the host computer 33.
25 At this time, the color reader and the color printer constitute a single copying machine for performing a copying operation.

1 The local status (status representing a
noncontrollable state) is set by the host computer in
the color printer/color reader. The remote status is
set in accordance with an earlier one of a remote
5 designation command from the operation unit of the
color reader 1 and the REMOTE command from the host
computer 33.

In the copier remote status, the image memory
apparatus 3 can be controlled in a remote state in
10 accordance with an instruction from the operation unit
of the color reader 1. At this time, a command from
the computer cannot execute any function of the image
memory apparatus 3.

The remote/local status can be designated by the
15 type parameter of the REMOTE command from the host
computer 33.

The CPU 4360 communicates with the color printer 2
and the CPU 22 of the control unit 13 in the color
reader 1 through the video interface 201 to instruct
20 the four remote/local status levels from the computer
33 by type parameter of REMOTE command.

Several transmission sequences of the commands
will be described with reference to Figs. 84 to 87.

Fig. 84 shows a sequence for registering image
25 data from the input unit to the image files in the
image memory apparatus 3 by the SCAN command. A
portion of a file check basic system can be checked in

1 advance by using the sequence shown in Fig. 83.

Fig. 85 shows a sequence for outputting image data of image files already registered in the image memory apparatus 3 by the PRINT command.

5 Fig. 86 shows a sequence for inputting and registering image data from the input unit and transferring this image data to the host computer 33 by the DRSCAN command.

Fig. 87 shows a sequence for outputting the image data from the computer 33 to the output unit, unlike by DRSCAN command.

The commands are actually executed as follows.

An operation for outputting an image from the host computer to the color printer as a single image output will be described below, as shown in Fig. 93. More specifically, an operation for centering an RGB type image of 1,024 x 768 pixels starting from the upper left position (10,10) mm within the range of 277 x 190 mm, and for outputting the resultant image will be described below.

An output obtained by laying out a plurality of images, i.e., two RGB images in the host computer, on a single sheet and appearing at the color printer 2 will be exemplified (Fig. 94).

25 In this output, the RGB image of 1,280 x 1,024 pixels and the RGB image of 1,024 x 768 pixels are centered within the range, and the resultant image is

1 output.

When a plurality of images are to be output, the following two cases are given. First, the images are registered and virtually output from the host computer
5 33 to the image memory apparatus 3 one by one, and the images are output from the image memory apparatus 3 to the printer 2 (Fig. 96). Second, all the image data are registered in the image memory apparatus 3, and all the virtual outputs are output to the printer 2
10 (Fig. 95). In either case, the identical output can be obtained.

Operations for receiving images from the reader 1 to the host computer 33 are exemplified in Figs. 97 and 98.

15 In this case, data within, e.g., the A4 area (297 x 210 mm) on the reader 1 is fetched as RGB type image data in a size of 1,000 x 777 pixels, and the data is then fetched in the host computer 33.

As described above, according to this embodiment, the
20 input/output image data need not be stored in the computer 33. The image data can be input or output by only exchange of an instruction (command) between the image memory apparatus 3 and the computer 33. Data transfer between the input and output units (reader 1
25 and the printer 2) can be reduced.

In the above embodiment as has been described above, a so-called flat bed type sensor is used as a

1 color line sensor as a means for photoelectrically
converting a target image. However, the sensor is not
limited to this. For example, a spot type sensor may
be used. The type of sensor is not limited to any
5 specific type of sensor.

In the above embodiment, the color printer for
forming a full color image by so-called surface
sequential image formation is used as a means for
forming an image. However, a printer except for a
10 printer employing the surface sequential scheme, such
as an ink-jet printer, a thermal transfer printer, or a
thycolor printer may be used as such a color printer.

In the above embodiment, the host computer, the
image memory apparatus, and the color readers are
15 independent units which communicate with each other to
realize the various functions, thereby providing a new
system.

This embodiment has the following arrangement.
That is, by using the input unit for receiving image
20 information, the image memory apparatus for storing
these input images, the means for registering data in
the image memory apparatus with respect to the binary
image data generated in the computer under the control
of the computer, the arbitrary area information of the
25 binary image, and the means for setting a color code
for coloring an area represented by the area
information, the multi-value image stored in the image

1 memory apparatus can be synthesized with an image
obtained by setting a multi-value color in the binary
image, and the resultant image is output from the image
output unit.

5 In this embodiment, the multi-value color code is
assigned to any area of the binary bit map image by the
control instruction from the computer, and the
multi-value color code is assigned to any area. In
addition, tables of the luminance components
10 corresponding to the color codes are set, and any
colors can be assigned to identical color codes. An
image having a given color can be synthesized with
another color image having a color different from the
given color, and the resultant synthesis image can be
15 output.

As described above, according to this embodiment,
a desired color can be easily assigned to a binary
image, and this image can be easily synthesized with
another image.

20 A multi-value color code can be assigned to any
area of the binary bit map image by a control
instruction from, e.g., a computer.

In addition, according to this embodiment, an
input image storing area can be variably set. When the
25 area is increased, a high-quality image can be directly
stored. When the area is decreased, various types of
images can be stored. This increases a variety of

1 application fields. For example, since an image
storing area is set variable for an input image, the
memory area can be efficiently used.

According to this embodiment, a bit map memory is
5 arranged, and a non-rectangular area is developed in
the bit map memory. Data is read out from the bit map
memory and is used as a non-rectangular area signal,
thereby allowing editing of the non-rectangular area.

According to this embodiment, editing of a
10 non-rectangular area can be easily and freely
performed.

According to this embodiment, the binary bit map
image can be synthesized with another color image by a
control instruction from the computer.

15 The above effects can provide an electronic device
capable of synthesizing a binary image with an image
from an input unit.

According to this embodiment, a binary memory for
storing characters and the like is arranged in addition
20 to the image storing memory. A message or ruled line
data is input from an external device to the binary
memory, the message or comment can be attached to the
video input image, and the resultant image can be
output.

25